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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

DEATH KNEEL TOLLS FOR WOOLWORTHS

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Yourcanterbury would like to extend the warmest greetings of the season to all its readers and advertisers. And we wish you all a very happy New Year. We are not publishing a paper next week, but will return as normal on January 7. For all the latest news over the holiday period visit www.yourcanterbury.co.uk. Meanwhile, we have an exclusive interview with Father Christmas inside. TURN TO PAGE 8.

■ BY NICK AMES

WOOLWORTHS in the centre of Canterbury is to close its doors for the last time on Saturday – bringing to an end 70 years of trading in the city.

But there will be a temporary, albeit short-lived, reprieve for staff in the Whitstable and Herne Bay stores.

The St George's Street store will be among the first of the chain to be shut down by administrators Deloitte which has failed to find a buyer for the stores.

They are being closed in batches of 200 with Canterbury one of the first to go.

Closure of the city's branch will see around 40 staff lose their job.

Across Kent, branches in Tenterden, Margate, Ramsgate and Maidstone are set to close as well this weekend.

Other stores such as the outlets in Whitstable and Herne Bay, will close on either December 30, January 2 or January 5.

However, the locations have not yet been finalised so the future of those stores is still unclear.

Across the county there are 35 Woolworths stores employing a total of 1,167 people who all now face the prospect of unemployment.

The Canterbury store has been a fixture of the town since it opened around 70 years ago and will leave a gaping hole in the main shopping area of the city.

A number of businesses are locked in talks to take over the leases of the prime sites nationwide, with the likes of Primark, Tesco and Poundland all reported to be keen for a slice of the pie.

Shoppers can expect even more price cuts in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**WINTER SALE STARTS 9AM 27TH
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WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 KOS Media staff on what Christmas means to them. See www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search the leisure channel.



2 Take a tour of Kent's own version of Lapland. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Lapland'.



3 Pantomime perfect with Snow White. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Marlowe'.

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Owner blasts claims over 'unsafe' site

BY GARETH ARNOLD

THE owner of the decaying building which once housed Ha! Ha! and the Slatters Hotel says it is not to blame for its current condition.

The building has been forced to undergo major structural work for the last year after it had to close suddenly due to concerns it could collapse.

But owner RRL Ltd says it has done its best to restore 7 St Margaret's Street to its former glory, submitting several plans to turn it into a new hotel and flats, but was thwarted at every turn by Canterbury council – allegations the council flatly denies.

RRL claims in 2007 the council said the development – for a 100-room hotel and restaurant – could be carried out using planning permission already in place for previous schemes. But later that year the council changed its mind.

Information

A spokesman for RRL said: "This scheme was a mix of the two existing permissions. The amended plans were completed during the second and third quarters of 2007, in addition to which the necessary site surveys were undertaken.

"But in October 2007, the council reneged on its earlier agreement to grant planning permission by amendment and stated it required a new full application. Negotiations were undertaken based on its previous assurances, but to no avail."

In early 2008, the firm and their partners tried again, this time submitting plans for a 100-room hotel, which were refused.

An RRL spokesman said: "The application was rejected pending receipt of further information.

"Despite some weeks of negotiations, the council was not willing to accept the application, nor did it agree the repairs to be carried out to the Grade II-listed building."



DANGEROUS: The building in St Margaret's Street could have collapsed at any moment

With the economic situation worsening and no permission to develop the building, the deal fell through, and RRL Limited eventually went into liquidation.

Canterbury council has strongly denied any shortcomings on its part.

A spokesman said: "The council clearly advised that a new application would be required because the changes were too substantial to be treated as minor amendments to the two permissions. We would categorically dispute any suggestion to the contrary."

"The third scheme was eventually submitted in 2008, for a six-storey extension to provide a 100-bed hotel, but was never validated by the council because the applicant did not submit requisite information."

Surveyors inspecting the building late year were horrified to discover the building could collapse at any time and evacuated it.

Since then it has been made safe, propped up with heavy-duty supports and added to the district's list of buildings at risk where it is classified structurally unstable.



FAREWELL: Woolworths in St George's Street

'Regrettably we have had to begin closures'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

all three stores leading up to their closures. A closing down sale recently saw a surge in custom and the administrators are keen to extract as much money as possible from remaining stock to help pay off creditors and staff redundancies.

The administrators added more than 300 of the stores nationwide are under offer from a range of third parties and there is considerable interest in the other 500 stores. The administrators have also received interest in and offers for the Woolworths brand name and the associated Ladybird and Chad Valley brands.

Neville Kahn, joint administrator at Deloitte, said: "Whilst negotiations for the sale of Woolworths' retail arm remain ongoing, and we continue to speak to new interested parties, regrettably we have had to begin a store closure programme."

"We are extremely grateful to the staff and management for their support throughout this difficult time."

"We are confident we will sell the leases of the 300 stores currently under offer and are hopeful our ongoing discussions with other parties will also prove successful."

Woolworths is the highest profile casualty of the current economic downturn which also claimed MFI last week.

Fanfare of sound from the Trouser Trumpets

THE Trouser Trumpets are taking their quirky show to The Orange Street Music Club in the new year.

The band, influenced by the Bonzo Dog Do Dah band and Frank Zappa amongst others, will be the first to play at the club in 2009.

The Trumpets will perform at the club on Saturday, January 3 at 9pm.

Tickets are £4 on the door.

Aussies come to town

CRICKET fans will get a chance to watch the Australians at Canterbury in August as Ricky Ponting's men head to the St Lawrence Ground.

A two-day game will be staged at Kent's headquarters in Old Dover Road as part of the side's warm-up to the fifth and final Test at the Oval.

• For the full story, turn to page 38.

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Antiques store sells historic city house

Now building is to become a language school

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

IT is one of Britain's oldest houses and is said to be where the knights who slaughtered Thomas Becket armed themselves on the fateful night before heading to the cathedral.

And now one of Canterbury's best-known buildings is to change hands again after the antique business housed there sold up.

Originally dating back to the 11th century, Conquest House in Palace Street, is long woven into the history of the city.

A passage leading off one of the rooms is believed to lead all the way to the cathedral, a possible escape route the knights in 1170 may have used following Becket's slaying.

Now this historic building is to become a foreign language school with antiques dealer Caroline Hills, and her partner, moving out to make way for new owners at the beginning of January. The cost of the sale is undisclosed.

For Ms Hills, who restored the building to its current glory over two painstaking years in the early 80s, the move will be an emotional one.

She said: "When I came here in 1983 the



MEMORIES: Conquest House is steeped in history - and is rumoured to have commanded a price tag in excess of £1m

building was a complete wreck.

"It was a massive task, but I decided to take it on. I owned a small building firm, but we'd only done cottages and things like that, nothing on this scale, so I did have some experience, but I could have done with a lot more.

Haunted

"I put an awful lot into this building, but I get a tremendous sense of pleasure from knowing what we've done here."

As well as an antiques shop, Conquest House is a popular tourist attraction in its own right.

She said: "The Americans in particular love it. The building has so much history surrounding

it. They can't get enough."

Like many old buildings in the city, Conquest House also has its fair share of ghostly tales and has been the subject of several paranormal investigations over the years.

Ms Hills said: "The Normancroft is the room they all say is haunted. The story goes a woman was murdered here.

"When her husband returned from war and found her with her new lover he killed them both. She has been here, dagger drawn, for over four centuries, awaiting her revenge."

Conquest House Antiques will close on January 3.

• Email yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture GARETH ARNOLD

Film in beach hut hits shelves

A GRITTY British film shot in a beach hut in Whitstable is now available to buy.

The Blunderers, written, directed and starring award-winning director Bill Maloney from Pie 'n' Mash Films, tells the story of a white, middle-aged alcoholic who tracks down his black, crack addict friend to help him get off drugs.

Much of the film is based in a beach hut in Whitstable where a comedy of blunders unfolds as the two men struggle to survive.

Unusual

The film is partly based on the true story of Maloney's family friend who was trying to recover from drug addiction.

As well as his gritty storylines, Maloney is known for his unusual casting technique where he casts people from the streets giving members of the public the opportunity to shine on screen.

For his next film, The Brass, he paid a visit to Deal where he spoke to people about the possibility of a role.

For more information or to buy The Blunderers visit www.pienmashfilms.com.

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Film director Bill Maloney in conversation. Search 'Maloney'

Youngsters to get free seats at the theatre

FREE tickets to shows at the Marlowe will be available to 18 to 26 year olds during the old theatre's final season and beyond.

Theatre bosses successfully bid for £50,000 from Arts Council England's free theatre initiative to fund the scheme which aims to encourage young adults to become regular theatre-goers.

Young people will be able to see productions in the old Marlowe's final programme, as well as the opening performance in the new theatre and other shows staged during the two year closure. Details of how to apply for free tickets will be made available early in 2009.

The Marlowe was one of only 10 awards of £50,000 and fought-off stiff competition from some of the country's leading theatres and arts organisations.

It joins others the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, the Barbican and the Chichester Festival Theatre in the national initiative which will see 618,000 tickets being given away.

To sign up for future information on the scheme, contact the theatre's Stage Door Keeper on 01227 763262 or email john.baker@canterbury.gov.uk.

Beaneys boost after rest of £6.5m fund cash is handed over

THE Beaneys Institute has received the perfect gift ahead of Christmas – the final multi-million pound payment of a Heritage Lottery Fund hand-out.

The ornate city centre building, which houses the library and museum, is set for a complete refurbishment as one of the city council's major capital projects.

It secured £6.5 million from the fund earlier this year and received £700,000 towards its development plans.

Now fund chiefs have seen and approved the work conducted so far, they have released the remaining £5.98m to the project, being financed by both Canterbury and the county councils.

Deputy leader of Canterbury council, Cllr Jean Law, said: "This news is a great vote of confidence in Canterbury from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The new Beaneys will be a wonderful facility for local people and will

give them the museum and library service they deserve."

The project aims to conserve and enhance the late Victorian building, provide a brand new extension, and transform the range and quality of displays and services on offer.

There will also be an education spaces for schools and informal learning groups.

The new total cost of the new Beaneys will be about £11.6 million, and as well as the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will be funded by the South East England Development Agency and contributions from the city and county councils.

The Beaneys is scheduled to close at the end of February 2009, and aims to reopen in 2011.

A temporary library service will be provided during this time at 35 Pound Lane, formerly known as Ede's Garage.

Many of the museum exhibits will move to the Museum of Canterbury in Stour Street.

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yourcanterbury
NEWS IN BRIEF

Credit crunch a 'welcome reality check' for primate

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has called the credit crunch a "welcome reality check for a society driven by unsustainable greed."

In an interview with the BBC last week, Dr Rowan Williams criticised both the Government and the public for perpetuating a buy-now, pay-later society, and said we were now paying the price.

The Archbishop also condemned Prime Minister Gordon Brown's plans to encourage Britain to spend its way out of recession, claiming the situation was comparable to an "addict returning to the drug".

Drink-driver was nearly three times over limit

DOCKER Alan Loftus lost his job after he was stopped by police for drink-driving, a court was told.

Loftus, 31, of West Hill Road, Herne Bay, was seen driving erratically along the Old Thanet Way on December 3, Canterbury magistrates heard. He was almost three times over the limit.

Loftus had been drinking at a friend's house after a row with his partner and fell asleep. When he awoke at 3am he decided to drive home. He was banned from driving for three years, ordered to do 120 hours' unpaid work and pay £360 costs.

Probation officer part of an award-winning team

A PROBATION officer has been commended for helping spread the word about sentencing and the effectiveness of community penalties.

Will Moore, based at Canterbury probation office, was among members of the Kent local crime community sentence team which won a national award.

Justice Minister David Hanson MP presented Mr Moore and the rest of the team with certificates and a trophy during a ceremony at the Royal Society of Arts, London.

Court is not impressed by shoplifter's new look

SHOPLIFTER Emma Long took a top from the New Look clothes store in Canterbury after being evicted from her flat.

Long, 29, of Palmer House, Station Road East, admitted theft and being in breach of a suspended sentence.

Defending, David Nelson told city magistrates: "She stole because when she was evicted she didn't have much clothing."

Long was sentenced to 120 days in jail, suspended for two years, and ordered to pay £60 costs.

Archbishop's Christmas message defends the world's children

Exploitation of our youngsters cannot prevail

BY IAN PATEL

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has delivered a fierce defence of the world's children in his traditional Christmas message.

Dr Rowan Williams, who will address a packed congregation on Christmas Day morning at Canterbury Cathedral, also made what appears to be a thinly-veiled attack on abortion as he demanded that unborn children not be regarded as "less than members of the human family".

Writing in the wake of the Baby P scandal, he criticises a world where children have become "despised, exploited, even feared". Dr Williams also raised fears that the economic downturn would lead to greater suffering and deprivation for children, and we should all stand up to protect them.

He said: "As we look around the world, there is plenty to prompt us to far more anger and protest about what happens to children than we often seem to feel or express. This year there have been several public debates about childhood, as research has underlined the lack of emotional security felt by many children, the high cost of divorce and family breakdown, the disproportionate effect of poverty and debt on children, and many other problems."

The Archbishop also pointed to the horrors

visited upon children around the world, such as child soldiers in Africa and Sri Lanka, youngsters caught up in conflicts, and those faced with heavy burdens caused by Aids.

He also railed against the "insensitive treatment" given to child refugees and asylum seekers.

Dr Williams added: "Christmas is a good time to think again about our attitudes to children and about what happens to children in our societies."

"Christians who recognise the infinite and all-powerful God in the vulnerability of a newborn baby have every reason to ask hard questions about the ways in which children come to be despised, exploited, even feared in our world."

"We all suspect that in a time of economic crisis worldwide, it will be the most vulnerable who are left to carry most of the human cost."

"The Holy Child of Bethlehem demands of us that we resist this with all our strength, for the sake of the one who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor, became helpless with the helpless so that he might exalt us all through his mercy and abundant grace."



MESSAGE: Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams says children are despised, exploited and feared in the modern world

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A remarkable year of highs and lows

IT'S been another busy year for Canterbury Cathedral as it prepares to welcome packed congregations to its Christmas services.

Tickets for its annual Christmas Eve service were snapped up weeks in advance as worshippers looked to secure a seat for one of the most joyous occasions in the calendar.

Such was the demand that an additional service, 24 hours earlier, was added on a first-come, first-served basis for those missing out on the December 24 carol concert.

Earlier this year, the once-a-decade Lambeth Conference was staged in Canterbury, with some 800 Anglican bishops from across the world making the pilgrimage to the city for

three weeks of discussion and debate on the Church and its policies.

It was not without controversy, however, with some bishops boycotting the event and snubbing the personal invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Key to their concerns was the Church's stance on same-sex marriages and homosexual clergy.

You can watch clips about the Lambeth Conference and take a tour of Canterbury Cathedral itself – including remarkable views across the city from the Bell Harry Tower – by visiting our free broadband TV channel www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Simply search separately for 'lambeth' and 'cathedral'.

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Picture: NICK AMES



JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY: Dignitaries from Kent and the USA team up as the county takes delivery of the boat

Replica sails in for 400th anniversary

A REPLICA of Discovery – one of the three ships which established the first English speaking colony in America – has been presented to the people of Kent.

It will be on permanent display in the grounds of Westenhanger Castle, just outside Folkestone – and marks the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia.

It also marks the long association between the county and the foundation of the USA.

A ceremony to mark the hand-over was attended by representatives from the USA, the castle and Kent County Council.

New World

KCC deputy leader Alex King unveiled a commemorative plaque.

He said: "The handover event takes place exactly 402 years after the ships left London for the New World. People will be able to visit the ship at the castle and understand a bit more about the history of the times and they may even be surprised at the size of the boat which supported the first settlers across the Atlantic."

Mark Whitling is a direct descendant of Westenhanger Castle owner Sir Thomas Smythe who commissioned the original ship and he was present at the ceremony.

"People will see how small the ship is," he

■ BY NICK AMES

said. "It shows how brave those people were – there were 21 on board and they faced a harzardous voyage and bleak conditions and hostility when they arrived."

Discovery was one of a small fleet of three vessels which left London on December 19, 1606 and arrived in Chesapeake Bay on April 1607. The following month they sailed into the area which is now Jamestown and founded the colony.

Sir Robert Worcester is a member of the association which commemorates the landing as well as being chancellor of the University of Kent. He holds joint UK-US citizenship.

He explained: "Most people associate the Pilgrim Fathers with the founding of the USA when they landed in Massachusetts but the Jamestown colony had been there for some years."

"The pilgrims were amazed when the native Americans started speaking English to them – well they learnt it from the settlers who came across in the Discovery."

Also present at the opening was Mike Gayle of the US Embassy.

"I'm proud to be here to celebrate the joint history of the USA and the UK," he said.

"The foundation of the Jamestown colony was a historic occasion – for both countries and the entire world."

Log-on to view the history of Discovery

TO take a tour of the Discovery and listen to experts talk about the unique story of Kent's role in the founding of the first English speaking colony in America go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search for 'Discovery'.

Representatives from the USA explain how important the occasion was for their country and the sense of pride they feel in the joint histories shared by Kent and Virginia while a direct descendant of the man who commissioned the voyage tells the heroic story of the settlers.

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yourcanterbury NEWS IN BRIEF

New year signals end of two information centres

THE visitor information centres in Whitstable and Herne Bay will close for the last time on Christmas Eve.

And from January 2 the service will be provided from the council offices in both towns.

The move comes despite protests by townsfolk to keep the facilities open.

Touch screens to provide tourism information will be in place in both offices by the end of February and the council is aiming to start installation of a wider network of touch screens in time for the start of the tourist season at Easter.

Canterbury council's executive member for tourism, Cllr Mike Patterson, said: "We said that we wouldn't close either information centre until new arrangements were in place and we have delivered on that promise."

"Between the staff at the council offices and the network of touch screens, we are confident we will be able to provide an excellent tourism service."

The offices are located in William Street, Herne Bay, and Harbour Street, Whitstable.

Herne Bay school comes third in radio competition

INVICTA FM listeners voted Briary School in Herne Bay third in this year's Christmas singing competition.

The school received a commemorative cup after receiving more than 1,400 votes.

During the last three weeks, 20 schools' Christmas songs were played on-air with listeners voting for their favourite.

The 10 schools with the most votes were invited to perform live at the Docks Outlet Centre, Chatham on Monday, December 15.

Hamstreet Primary School, from Ashford, were the winners with Cecil Road Primary School in Gravesend coming second.

Jail term for sex assault and child porn pics stash

A MAN has been jailed for sexually assaulting a teenage boy and for having indecent photographs of children as young as one.

Grant Denyer, 47, of Pine Tree Avenue, Canterbury was sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court to 25 months behind bars.

He was charged with a sexual assault on a 16-year-old boy and 18 charges relating to the making and possession of indecent pseudo photographs of children and possession of indecent photographs of children.

Investigating officer PC Dan Devico said: "Grant Denyer preyed on children's vulnerabilities for his own gratification."

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WHAT'S ON AT THE WINTER GARDENS

FEBRUARY 2009
Saturday 14th February
Valentine Rendezvous Dance
Tuesday 17th February
Simple Simon and his Cat
Friday 20th February
4 Poofs and a Piano
Sat 21st February
Mr Wonderful Dancing
Sunday 22nd February
Televised British Wrestling
Friday 27th February
Colin Fry and TJ Higgs
Saturday 28th February
An audience with "ANDY ABRAHAM"

MARCH 2009
Tuesday 3rd March
Billy Ocean in Concert
Friday 6th March
Another Schooltime Spectacular
Sunday 15th March
"The American Dream"
Sunday 15th March
The All Stars Band
"20th Annual Charity Concert"
Friday 20th March
LEMAR in Concert
Saturday 21st March
Bjorn Again
APRIL 2009
Sunday 5th April
The Enemy in Concert

Thursday 18th April
Essence of Ireland
Sunday 19th April
Sooty In Space
MAY 2009
Wednesday 6th May
Rob Brydon
Sunday 10th May
Leon Jackson in Concert
Sunday 17th May
Rhidian Roberts in Concert
Tuesday 26th - Saturday 30th May
"A Night On The Town"
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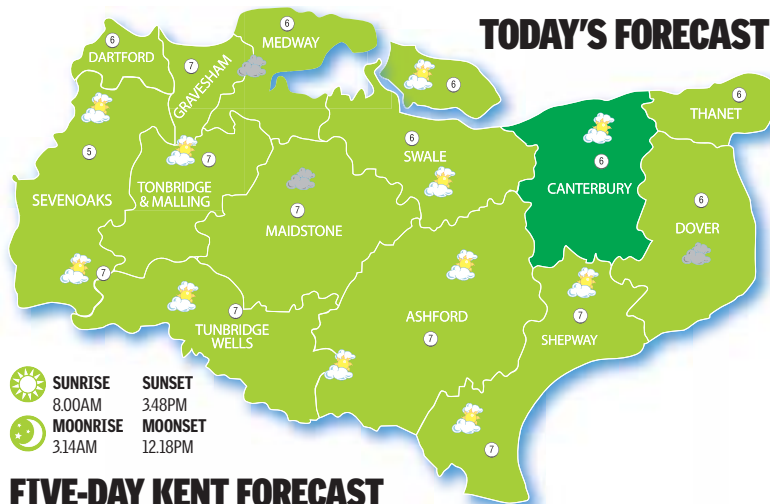
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MOONRISE 3.14AM
SUNSET 3.48PM
MOONSET 12.18PM

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	12°C	13°C	8°C	6°C	7°C	Gravesend	13°C	12°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Canterbury	11°C	12°C	7°C	6°C	7°C	Maidstone	12°C	13°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	12°C	12°C	8°C	6°C	7°C	Ramsgate	11°C	12°C	7°C	6°C	7°C
Dartford	13°C	12°C	8°C	7°C	7°C	Rochester	12°C	12°C	8°C	6°C	7°C
Dover	10°C	10°C	7°C	6°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	10°C	11°C	7°C	5°C	5°C
Faversham	12°C	12°C	8°C	6°C	7°C	Sittingbourne	12°C	12°C	8°C	6°C	7°C
Folkestone	10°C	10°C	7°C	6°C	7°C	Tonbridge	11°C	12°C	8°C	7°C	6°C
Gillingham	12°C	12°C	8°C	6°C	7°C	Tun Wells	11°C	12°C	8°C	7°C	6°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	9:24am	5.1m
	Sunday	10:25am	5.2m
Dover	Saturday	7:49am	5.7m
	Sunday	8:47am	5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	7:41am	6.5m
	Sunday	8:35am	6.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	8:19am	4.3m
	Sunday	9:17am	4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	9:12am	4.9m
	Sunday	10:14am	5.0m
Whitstable	Saturday	9:17am	4.7m
	Sunday	10:21am	4.8m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	10°C	Madrid	9°C
Athens	14°C	New York	0°C
Barcelona	13°C	Paris	9°C
Beijing	1°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	11°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	-6°C
Hong Kong	27°C	Warsaw	4°C
Las Palmas	19°C	Wellington	17°C



SPORT RELIEF: Cricketers help cheer up children at hospital

Kids are bowled over

KENT cricketers paid a special visit to sick children at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital recently.

Spinners James Tredwell and Rob Ferley joined first-team coach Simon Willis and chief executive Paul Millman to visit the children on two wards.

The players chatted to children and parents, signed autographs on mini-bats and gave out presents which included Christmas selection boxes and several other goodies.

James Tredwell said: "It's been really good for us to come here. We're in a privileged situation as cricketers and to come and cheer up some less fortunate children is important."

Remembering carers

AN award commemorating a much-loved member of the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society has been launched to recognise carers. The Ruth Pollen Award is dedicated to a member who first displayed the symptoms of early onset dementia at the age of 44.

She died last year after a 13-year decline. Her husband Tony has done much to promote awareness about dementia and the issues carers face.

The award will consist of £200 together with a certificate and will be given annually to a carer, care worker, service provider, professional or volunteer.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

FATHER CHRISTMAS



Q Christmas Eve is almost upon us. Are you ready for your jaunt around the world?

A It's been a tough few months, actually. The credit crunch has hit us all quite hard up here. The cost of magic dust for the sleigh has gone through the roof. You think petrol prices get high – you have no idea! But we'll be ready come Christmas Eve. We always are.

Q How many helpers do you have, and are they really always checking up on everyone's behaviour?

A I am very fortunate to have an extended network of helpers. My happy band of elves work with me, preparing the toys and tending the reindeer, and they are crucial. They work very hard and without them I'd be stuck.

If they're not helping me here, they're keeping an eye out, checking who's been naughty or nice.

We have an extensive – now computerised, of course – list of who gets the good stuff. I also have helpers who go out and impersonate me in shops. As much as I would like to, I simply cannot be everywhere at the same time. Well, apart from on Christmas Eve, of course, but that's magic for you.

Q Do you have a favourite Christmas song?

A I'm rather partial to I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus. It's a bit cheeky, isn't it? In truth, I didn't kiss that person's mum – or should I say mom – because, as everyone knows, one of the tricks of the trade is that no one ever sees me. I've always assumed the

person they were kissing just used that as an excuse to get up to something they shouldn't. Mind you, some of the things you get to see while darting from home to home...

Well, let's just say it's not suitable for a family newspaper.

Q Which name do you prefer: Santa Claus, St Nick, Father Christmas? The list goes on...

A In America they do love calling me Santa, and in the UK I know there is a big popularity for Father Christmas. I don't mind, to be honest. What I do object to quite strongly is being called fat. I'm big-boned. I'm jolly. I'm red-faced. I am NOT fat.

Q What do you say to those who question your existence?

A It's very simple. If you doubt me, then don't hang up your stocking on Christmas Eve. I don't mind. It's just one less chimney for me to squeeze down and less weight we have to carry on the sleigh. Have I mentioned the cost of magic dust this year?

Q How are the reindeer? Are they ready for their big night?

A It's a bit like preparing an athlete for the Olympic Games. There's months of training, all building up to the big day when they have to perform. I have quite a herd to choose from and there is, as always, healthy competition for places.

Pulling my sleigh is considered the pinnacle of a reindeer's career, after all. Just take a look

at Rudolph. He was a regular and he makes a small fortune in commercial deals.

Every time you see a cup with his face on it, or a Christmas card, he gets paid. Normally in carrots or grain, but paid none the less. Become a sleigh regular and the rewards really are high.

Q How long do you spend in Kent on your rounds? And what do you think of the county?

A It's a trade secret as to how long I stay there on Christmas Eve, but what I can say is that I have frequently spent a long weekend in the county.

I can never stay anywhere too long as people spot the beard and start whispering. I'd love to stay for a proper holiday, though. It's a beautiful place, full of beautiful people. Most of whom, I might add, appear to have been good this year.

Q You've been doing this for a good few years now. Has retirement crossed your mind?

A It's a bit like Sir Alex Ferguson. There was once a time after a particularly annoying Christmas Eve I thought I'd throw it all in.

Lots of children seemed to almost wake up just as I entered the room, and the number of drunks on the streets was crazy.

But then, just as I think I've had enough, the next year will be great and I forget all the bad things. And, to be honest, where else could you get a job which offers such long holidays? It makes teachers look overworked!

Ho, ho, ho!

Q & A

Taking five minutes out of his hectic and demanding schedule to speak to **Chris Britcher**, Father Christmas reveals quite what makes him tick as he gets ready for the busiest day of his year.

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Film highlights the dangers facing us all due to global warming. Search 'NASA'



Tom Howard reviews the week's local football news from around the county. Search 'football'



Julie Maddocks charts the history of one of Kent's best-known breweries. Search 'Fremlins'



Santa Claus lets the train take the strain ahead of his busiest day of the year. Search 'Tenterden'



The best job in the world? Kent's very own Willy Wonka shares his secrets. Search 'Chocolution'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Don't wait until spring to put up that birdbox

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has launched a winter appeal to gardeners.

Garden birds use nestboxes as shelter during the winter as well as for raising fledglings in spring, and the RSPB is appealing to people across the county to put boxes up in the right place now, ready for winter roosting.

Nestboxes don't always go unused in winter, as many believe, and gardens may have some unexpected winter guests.

During the autumn and winter many birds will enter nestboxes looking for a suitable place to roost or feed. They then often use the same boxes for nesting in the spring.

But positioning them wrongly could lead to young birds baking to death if exposed to too much sunlight when the days warm up in spring.

Hester Phillips, of RSPB South East, said: "It might seem very early to be thinking about siting your nestbox, but as well as using them to shelter from the cold, birds will actually start shopping around for suitable nest sites soon, too. Birds often use nestboxes as a place

to roost or store food in winter. An amazing 61 wrens have been found roosting in one nestbox to shelter from the cold. The warmth generated in a communal roost can really save them in harsh winters.

"It's also essential that you choose the right place for your box. Please don't put them up on any old bit of wall or fence.

"The direction is very important. Unless there are trees or buildings which shade the box during the day, they need to be facing between north and east to protect them from overheating in strong summer sunshine.

"This will also shelter them from our prevailing damp south-westerly winds."

Other tips include:

- Make sure birds have a clear flight-path to the nest without clutter directly in front of the entrance.
- Most nestboxes should not be located too close to the ground or on a fence or shed, where cats can lurk.
- Boxes for robins and wrens, however, should not be too high and are best placed among greenery to give additional protection from predators and the elements.
- If you have more than one nestbox, site them as far apart as possible as many birds like their own space and are highly territorial during the breeding season.



BOX CLEVER: Winter roosting sites are important to birds

More than they bargained for as danger toys seized in raids

A CHRISTMAS crackdown by Kent Trading Standards officers led to the seizure of more than 2,000 potentially dangerous toys.

They formed part of a larger haul of almost 4,500 counterfeit items that also included clothing and footwear.

Officers seized the goods during raids at five premises in Snodland last week, with stock also taken from people using online auction sites from properties in Thanet and Romney Marsh.

Cllr Mike Hill, cabinet member for community services at Kent County Council, said: "These latest raids have helped save consumers money and protected children from receiving fake and possibly dangerous toys this Christmas.

"We are all attracted by bargains and these traders have been cashing in on that.

"At a time when businesses are feeling the pinch, too, it is important that action is taken against unscrupulous individuals and organisations."

The seized toys are currently being tested for safety, with the alleged offenders being dealt with on suspicion of the sale of counterfeit goods.



YOUTH THEATRE: The Marlowe in Canterbury will be one of the venues to benefit

Stage is set for the next generation

THE Arts Council is funding a pioneering scheme over the next two years aimed at increasing theatre attendance by those aged under 26.

Theatres across the county will benefit from the plan to boost the popularity of live performances among young people by offering free admission.

Grants totaling £310,000 will fund the plan across the South East, where 22 theatres have been earmarked.

The free theatre scheme will start on Monday, February 16, and a website for booking tickets will start up in the new year. Arts Council regional head Judith Hibberd said: "We must make it easy for young people to experience powerful and inspiring art, show them that

the arts are for them and hopefully help create a new generation of arts audiences."

Mark Everett, director of the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, which has been offered £50,000, said: "Young people will be at the heart of the new Marlowe Theatre and this award will support essential early work to develop these new audiences."

Also in Kent, a £10,000 grant has been offered to both the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells and the Performing Arts Network Kent Consortia, which includes the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury, Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells and the Theatre Royal Margate.

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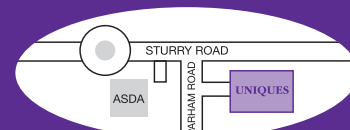
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UNIQUES



Here's a few sobering thoughts

■ BY NICK AMES

POLICE across the county have secured significant convictions to provide a sobering reminder about road safety and the consequences of breaking the law.

The convictions come as Kent Police reaches the half way stage of its Christmas anti-drink and drug driving campaign which is using cutting edge technology and new tactics to detect rogue drivers.

To date, since the campaign started on December 1:

- A total of 143 people have been arrested for drink or drug driving
- Three people have been jailed for death by dangerous driving
- There have been nine fatal, or potentially fatal, collisions
- Of the above, four people have died.

In one of the cases, a motorist on a lifetime driving ban in Ireland, who killed a 52-year-old Sheerness man in a motorway collision, has been jailed for nine years. Stephen O'Reilly reached speeds of more than 110mph shortly before the collision, on the M2 near Sittingbourne, in June, this year.

He was also drinking beer at the wheel. Head of the serious collision investigation unit, Inspector Paul Sellwood, said: "This has been a lengthy investigation for the unit, involving close working with the police and



NINE YEARS:
Stephen O'Reilly



£1,000 FINE:
David Hoskins

courts in the Republic of Ireland. We are very satisfied for the family with the outcome. O'Reilly is a career criminal who has not only given a family a life sentence but he will also have to live with the consequences of his driving for the rest of his life."

In another case, Maidstone businessman David Hoskins pleaded guilty to allowing his employee, Martin Crealock, to drive a work vehicle when it wasn't insured for him to drive.

Hoskins received a £1,000 fine and was made to pay £365 costs. He was also given six

penalty points on his licence.

This is the first time Kent Police can recall anyone receiving the maximum fine and penalty points for permitting another person to drive uninsured.

Martin Crealock was sentenced earlier this year at Maidstone Crown Court, where he received 15 months in jail and was disqualified from driving for four years.

Finally, two police officers were seriously injured when their marked car was hit from behind by 27-year-old Lee Staples, in April.

It was parked on the hard shoulder at junction



TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES: Dangerous driving and flouting the law can devastate lives - and will not be tolerated, say Kent Police

two of the M2 coast-bound carriageway with all the necessary emergency lighting.

The collision was so serious the officers had to be cut from the wreckage by the Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

Staples couldn't give a reasonable reason for colliding with the police vehicle and alcohol and drug abuse were ruled out.

He was subsequently reported for careless driving and pleaded guilty. He was fined £400 and had to pay £60 court costs and a £15 victim surcharge. He was also disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Helping businesses weather the storm

BUSINESSES struggling amid the economic downturn have been told to push ahead in the new year with confidence.

Kent County Council chiefs have underlined their commitment to supporting local industry and cabinet member for regeneration Kevin Lynes says it intends to transform the county into what he's dubbed 'the Garden of Enterprise'.

Cllr Lynes outlined the policies he hopes will help the county weather

the downturn. He said: "Successful businesses create wealth, jobs and opportunities in the county. KCC has a key role in the Kent economy. It is a major employer and spends £860m annually on goods and services.

"We want the Kent economy to grow and develop - for Kent to be the Garden of Enterprise."

It comes after KCC leader Paul Carter recently unveiled a host of measures to support local business.

Cllr Lynes said: "We want to develop a new relationship with business, an honest and practical relationship which delivers further support to increase opportunities and growth.

"We therefore set out ten commitments under the banner Backing Kent Business. These commitments are KCC's promise for a step change in how we support Kent business.

"I am determined to deliver these commitments to support Kent business."

Spiking victim's warning to party people

PARTYGOERS are being warned of the dangers of drink-spiking by a woman who became a victim.

Francesa Fraser, 22, has been handing out posters and drinks mats to pubs and clubs across the county to raise awareness.

Spiking is on the increase according to campaigners, who say many people do not realise how dangerous it can be.

Ms Fraser, who was given a cup of tea spiked with ecstasy, said the smoking ban had meant more peo-

ple leaving drinks unattended.

She said: "People need to make sure they have their drink with them at all times and try not to leave it anywhere when they want a cigarette."

She has also been giving out brightly-coloured bottle stoppers, which only allow a straw for drinking. "The stoppers cost just 2p," she said. "We want to make pubs and clubs aware they are inexpensive and can lower the risk of drinks being spiked."

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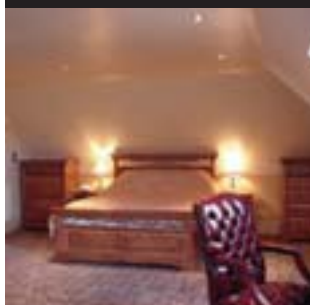
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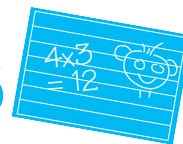
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**BREAK TIME****Enterprising girls boost charity funds**

DETERMINED sixth formers at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School have sold more than 3,000 Christmas cards in a month to raise £500 for the Royal School for the Deaf in Margate.

Pupils Sophie Hoare, Ellie Keel, Yasmin Tamimi, Shumi Ali and Imogen Buchan are all members of Interact, the junior branch of the Rotary Club which is run by teenagers all over the world.

Miss Keel said: "We've been selling the cards since the middle of November to students, staff and parents."

"Most of the cards were designed by students at the school in Margate, but we've also sold some cakes to bring the total up to £500."

The festive fund-raisers presented their hard-earned money to the school's liaison officer, Emma Bourne, on Thursday last week.

Miss Hoare said: "We hope to visit the school next term to see how the money we've raised can benefit the students."

Student's design is chosen for e-card

THE Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has chosen a design by a Canterbury College student as their official e-Christmas card.

Greg Martin, a second year graphic design student won the e-design contest, beating hundreds of students from colleges and universities all over the UK.

The prize for producing the winning e-card will be a meal at the House of Lords for Greg and his college tutors, as the special guests of Lord Tony Young, minister for students in further education and the e-card will be sent to the DIUS national contacts and partners.

To see Greg's winning design visit: <http://interactive.dius.gov.uk/xmas2008>.

Small team with big responsibility

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

FROM interviewing teachers to helping decide on future sports policy at the school, Canterbury High School's sports council is no ordinary group of pupils.

The 12 members of the council are chosen by pupils and teachers from every year group in the school, and act as a voice for the rest of the school's pupils, helping decide everything from which sports and facilities to pursue in the future, to vetting prospective teachers.

PE teacher Chris Wallis, who now helps out the student council, described the interview process.

He said: "It was quite scary, but brilliant at the same time."

"I had a board of seven kids firing ten or so questions at me like 'why do you want to work here?' and 'what do you think you can bring to the school?'"

"The sort of questions a headmaster would ask."

"As I say, it was scary but it gave me the chance to get to know the kids and what they were like as well."

"The reason the senior management do it is it gives the kids a say, but also because the kids' relationship with their teachers is paramount. If they don't like a particular teacher, they can make their life very difficult."

Getting on the council is not easy, with



RESPONSIBLE: The youngsters involved in the sports council are carefully picked by fellow pupils and teachers

prospective candidates having to fill in an application which is then assessed by existing council members.

Mr Wallis said it was important to choose members carefully due to the level of responsibility and work involved.

He said: "They tend to be quite exceptional kids who get on well with their peers, and

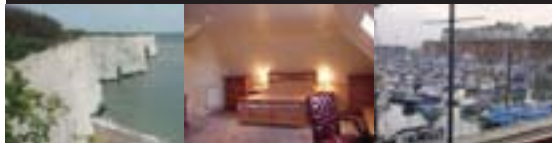
teachers as well. It's a lot of responsibility on top of their school work."

"What these kids do is really impressive."

Recent achievements by the sports council include securing funding from senior management to get a water fountain built, and campaigning for multi-use air hockey and table tennis tables.

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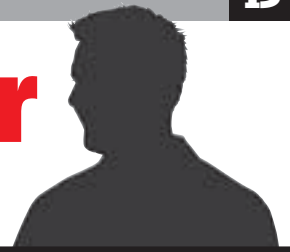
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Goodwill to all men is once again a part of the season

I AM very much of the opinion that Christmas is the best, most exciting time of the year.

I find little to dislike about it. Everyone's mood is lifted, the lights and the tinsel remind me of a happy childhood, my children are all keen to ingratiate themselves with me in order to get nice pressies, and the TV actually has something on worth watching most nights.

However, in recent years, the true spirit of Christmas has been diluted. Aside from the religious overtones and the age-old pagan traditions of this time of year, the great capitalism monster has turned it into a money-making frenzy. Nothing necessarily wrong with that, but an issue when it eclipses everything else.

Much has been written in years gone by on how commercialism is taking the soul out of this special period. But this year, amid all the doom, gloom and uncertainty which the economic downturn has dragged with it, has come

something of a refreshing change.

Because given everyone is either watching the pennies, or simply wondering where the next penny is going to come from, the crassest of commercial activity has been knocked on the head this year.

The result? We haven't all been told we are failing as parents/partners/friends if we don't splash out on some extravagant gift as a gesture of our love.

Even the most money-grabbing of multinational brands know the climate is not right for such a campaign. And few can afford such items anyway.

A bit of clever shopping around, and taking advantage of sales, you can even come out of this shopping frenzy with your credit card bill confined to just a couple of pages.

We have all been left with the feeling that, just for once, we are going to have to enjoy Christmas on a very traditional level - going back to basics, if you will.

Yes, this year we are going to be having to rely on those old chestnuts of fellow human

company to put a spring in our step.

Of family, of friends, of each other.

And without wishing to come over all Thought For A Day-ey, that can be no bad thing.

Granted, being in close proximity to friends and particularly family, can unsettle even the most placid of people, but who knows, the fact we are all in this boat of uncertainty, sailing the choppy waters of the economic storm, could actually generate something of a Blitz spirit.

It could bring us all a little closer together.

And if anything good is to come out of this miserable time of worries and fears, a gentle reminder of the goodness which resides in one another and all of mankind, could be just the tonic.

I'll certainly raise a glass of something cheap and sparkly to that.

• **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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yourcompetition

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Picture: ADY KERRY

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This will include free entry to the park and a trip in a bespoke safari vehicle around the African Experience where over 300 animals roam in a 100 acre site overlooking breathtaking views of the Channel towards France. Later, the lucky winners can explore the 600 acre park discovering animals such as lions, tigers, snow and clouded leopards, red pandas, numerous species of monkey, black rhino and elephants as well as the famous collection of western lowland gorillas.

There are two ways to enter the competition and the first ensures, with little effort on your part, you are able to regularly help raise funds to save a variety of endangered species.

All you have to do is sign up for a free Aspinall prepaid Maestro card provided in conjunction with Mastercard and M-cube. Normally the prepaid card costs £9.99, but in conjunction with this competition it won't cost you a penny.

The card can be used like a debit card but is topped up like a mobile phone and 100 per cent of the profits associated with using it are given back to the Aspinall Foundation.



By using your card, you will help to support the Foundation's African Projects in the Congo and Gabon as well as our work in the UK and other parts of the world. The prepaid card can be used to shop securely online, spend while on holiday, manage business expenses and cash flow, help children budget their pocket money or just use it for all of your daily spending – both in the UK and abroad! Every transaction will help the conservation and breeding programmes at Port Lympne and Howletts Wild Animal Parks.

The card is absolutely free, no credit check is required and it is quick, easy and secure to apply on line. The card is a safe alternative to carrying cash and is accepted worldwide.

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available too. The card is totally safe for all online transactions and protects you from identity fraud. It also gives you a load of discounts on High Street products including a 10 per cent discount in Howletts and Port Lympne cafes and gift shops.

To enter the competition and obtain this card just visit www.savinggorillas.com and insert "KOS" when asked where you heard about the card. In the drop down box below insert "KOS". On receipt of the card you can top it up online and take advantage of the rewards on offer. It can be used anywhere you see the Maestro or MasterCard logo worldwide.

However, if you don't want to sign up for the card you can also still enter the competition by sending a postcard with the heading "ASPINALL PREPAID CARD – KOS" with your name, e-mail address (if applicable), address, and daytime telephone number to Marketing Department (KOS comp), Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Lympne, Near Hythe, Kent, CT21 4PD. The closing date is January 5th, 2009.

For more information about Howletts, Port Lympne and the Aspinall Foundation see www.totallywild.net.

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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TALK TIME

CAROLINE HILLS

The antiques dealer who helped rejuvenate Palace Street and the King's Mile, is preparing to move out of the historic Conquest House after more than 20 years.



Tell us about the street. What changes have you seen?

When I first came here it was a thriving street and we had a few years of good business. But then it dropped off steadily and the last ten years have been very difficult. The street was dying. Instead of what you see now – a bustling street with lots of brightly coloured shop fronts – it was all empty premises with 'to let' signs outside.

Why do you think this happened?

I don't know for sure. The Whitefriars centre didn't help, but there were lots of things. The pavement was horrible, the road was all pot-holed and in a terrible state of repair, it had ugly lamp-posts. There was nothing attractive about it at all.

How did you come up with the street's new image?

It's inspired by the Champs Elysees. I had a vision of a very different street with a wide pavement, one way if not completely pedestrianised, with pavement cafes and specialist, high quality shops. I took pictures of how it was then, and produced art work of how it could look. I think sometimes people need a picture; they find it difficult to visualise an idea unless you have something to show them.

Now it is a thriving street again.

Our new arts market Bohemia is also doing really well. It has locally produced food – meat, cheese and other things on one side of the street, and arts and crafts on the other. Everything from fish to oil paintings. It is proving really popular. Even our last one in November, when the weather was absolutely horrible, was packed with people.

YOUR LETTERS

Bench joy is a tonic to be treasured

I agree with both articles with regards this year's Marlowe panto Snow White that appeared in your December 17 issue.

Emma Barton did sing with great clarity and feeling. All the cast of the panto have been lauded in the press except for the actress who played the Wicked Queen and did so with great charm and professionalism and who in my estimation was superb.



Also the bench scene must stay. As a regular panto man it makes my day to hear the happiness in the voices of children of all ages who join in the singing with great gusto. To see the great joy on the children's faces as soon as Dave appears with it under his arm is like a tonic to be savoured and treasured forever.

Russell Mackinnon
By email

Education is vital for safer road use

Your reader says "slow-roads" are the "last hurdle" left to us to lower road casualties. So are you discounting a proper road safety education programme Mr Garbutt?

It is too late to start talking about road safety when 17-year-



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olds are thinking of getting their first driving licence. Some bad habits have already become their norm.

Road safety starts when children start to walk and go outside with their parents. All schools should have some form of

mandatory road safety curriculum to suit their prevailing age needs and as they get nearer the driving age, a more focused approach.

Schools are supposed to teach life-skills, but of course government policy dictates governments must not be seen to encourage driving. Heaven forbid! Also road accidents give them a good excuse to introduce evermore restrictive and draconian laws.

Terry Hudson
by email

We need changes to move forward

I read with interest your article on the Police Authority shake up and Ann Barnes' concerns.

How dare anyone suggest or risk the potential impartiality of the Kent Police Authority by having direct elections to vote onto the board lay persons whose sole responsibility would be to monitor how Kent Police spend our hard earned tax payers money?

Ann states direct elections would seriously put at risk the "jobs for the boys brigade" who are of course non-political.

I suspect Ann is suggesting we only want the three monkey situation, say nothing, ask nothing, hear nothing and who are all too busy with their "other" jobs to criticise Kent Police; nice work if you can get it.

God forbid we could end up with fair-minded, non-extremist, non-political pressure groups, who are simply looking to offer assurances, assistance, and criticism when necessary on how policing is carried out in the county.

Ann's brigade would not want their front doors kicked in during the night over any "bull in the china shop elected member" who may criticise policing policies!

Ann says this wonderful tried

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and tested policing structure in place should not be put at risk. Why? Is that not how we achieve change for the better or do you agree with Robert Mugabe's perception Ann, change nothing?

I would argue any newly elected individuals may criticise the police for wasting £2million on policing the protesters at the Isle of Grain, or sending three police cars and six officers to "neighbour" situations, or worse still have two police officers sitting in a car for two hours in an attempt to prevent a potential breach, or sending four officers to arrest a non-criminalised person over a "domestic" dispute, a day later!

Forget the burglars, rapist, drug dealers, vandals etc let's spend the cash on policing protesters for fear they may be "political activists". Now that is well worth policing.

I agree with Ann that politics should be kept out of policing, as indeed with police officers investigating their colleagues (police investigating police) as they do at present. Ex-police officers should be kept out of any investigation of complaint. Now that I would vote for Ann, if you would allow us.

Kenneth Little
By email

Legend knew how to entertain the young

The passing of Oliver Postgate means a true legend has left us.

His charming creations Bagpuss, The Clangers, Ivor the Engine and Noggin the Nog were classic 70s children's television, unsurpassed by anything since.

Modern children's programmes are predominantly fast and frenetic. Lacking the character, depth and substance of Postgate's magical world, they are the televisual equivalent of a high-caffeine double espresso with added E-numbers, leaving kids in a hyperactive delirium.

Oliver Postgate understood children don't just respond to an endless stream of non-stop action, excitement and noise, but can also be easily entertained and enchanted by the sedate gentleness of their timeless classics, which touched hearts and captivated the nation and continues to do so today.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler
Canterbury



Police should not be an unknown force

The news Kent Police are investing cash in stun guns is not great for people who wish the force to police by consent rather than be seen as some sort of occupying force.

I understand the way of life for many people has changed and socie-

ty is no longer as cohesive as it once was. The neighbourhood bobby has probably gone forever – but police riding around in cars, armed and very rarely interacting with the public unless it is in a confrontational way is not good news for anyone.

Rather than spending all this cash, what about a few more officers carrying out foot patrols, talking to people and generally making their presence known?

Harry Miles
By email

America shows we shouldn't use tasers

Taser guns are not a good idea as their use in the USA has shown.

In a country where armed police are the norm they have attracted far more criticism than the normal handguns which officers carry as a matter of routine.

Philippa Hodges
By email

Computer donation makes a difference

The charity which sends old computers to Africa needs to be commended and people who donate to it should feel proud of themselves.

A friend recently went to Sierra Leone and was impressed to see each class at a village school had access to a computer – all of which had been donated by people from the UK. So helping in this manner really does make a difference to the lives of children in Africa.

Alex Rodgers, by email

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A fine selection of beer complements the food. Due to its popularity, it is advisable for customers to book ahead for dinner.

Sunday lunch is also very popular and Jackie the chef has worked alongside Gary Rhodes - picking up those tips which make the menu very special.

The polite staff always ensure they are attentive to customers and run a well-stocked kitchen and bar with all prices competitive.

The pub has a very attractive location and is as fine an example of an English country inn as it is possible to find.

Locally sourced produce takes pride of place and the restaurant design allows for a warm and friendly setting with a log fire for winter and a conservatory for summer.

Pool and darts are played in the bar area and the pub is open from noon until 2pm every day and food is available in the evenings from 6pm to 9pm on Thursday and from 7pm to 9pm on other days except for Sunday and Monday when the kitchen is closed.



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A pocketful of good food

■ The Hop Pocket

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Everything on the menu is homemade and cooked to order with all the meat sourced from within five miles of the pub.

Even the chips are homemade. And who could resist delicious scampi, made on the premises with mouthwatering langoustines?

Traditional dishes such as sausage and mash and pork chops sit nicely on the menu alongside Vietnamese specialities such as chilli beef.

A children's menu is also on offer which ensures quality food – the portions are smaller than adult but the dishes are the same.

The festive season is sure to go with a swing as there is live music and other entertainment on offer too. On Boxing Day a notable local tradition takes place – a three legged race from the pub to the tree down the road. The Jo Wilson Trio – one of the best musical acts in the area – will also be playing at the pub on the same day.



An excellent ambience, fine food and drink and quality music with a friendly, welcoming atmosphere all ensure The Hop Pocket is gaining a reputation as a place to eat and drink and enjoy oneself.

Fine French fare for you

■ L'Escargot

THIS restaurant gives diners the chance to experience the culinary delight of France, while travelling no further than Herne Bay High Street.

Alain and Joyce Bessemoulin have earned a reputation over the last 24 years for quality, service and atmosphere; serving tempting classic French dishes with a little touch added by Alain's individuality as a chef.

The a la carte menu offers a choice of eight starters and eight main courses to include beignet au fromage, home made tuna terrine, king prawns and also the inevitable snails in garlic butter.

Main courses include breast of Barbary duck, rack of lamb, guinea fowl and fillet of salmon, all freshly cooked to order.

They are also open New Year's Eve with a special gourmet three-course menu for £32, but you need to book to avoid disappointment.

Week day lunches are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from £8.50.

Traditional Sunday lunches are from £6.95 with choices of two roasts of the day.



The evening Table D'hôte is still on offer at 25 per cent of the normal price (Monday to Friday). Telephone L'Escargot 01227 372876 (closed Thursday all day and Sunday evening).

CHEF RECOMMENDS

The Hop Pocket

Popular potted duck is a great way to start the meal. Then follow this up with seared sea bass served with a choice of vegetables. For dessert: bread and butter pudding.

L'Escargot

Start with deep fried camembert served with gooseberry sauce. Then try roasted breast of barbary duck, served with a dubonnet and orange sauce. Complete the meal with tart tartin.

Rose and Crown, Stelling Minnis

Deep fried brie wedges with a port and redcurrant sauce to start. Then a whole rack of barbecue pork ribs with salad, chips and coleslaw, or pan fried salmon in a prawn and cream sauce. For dessert try homemade apple and pear crumble.

Kathton House

Start with mushroom and brie pancake with cheese sauce. Next the supreme of local pink trout in chive sauce is highly recommended. For dessert: spotted dick served with fresh egg custard

Yoshi

Begin the meal with Japanese dumpling: pork and prawn in a Japanese gyoza skin and steamed. Then try sizzling seafood: scallops, black tiger prawns and squid, stir-fried with red pepper, onion, pineapple, mange tout and water chestnut, served in a sizzling abalone and scallop sauce and sprinkled with Chinese celery.

Martin's

Start with crab, avocado and cheese: a scallop shell filled with fresh crab, avocado and topped with cheese and slightly grilled. Then Martin's house fillet: Scotch fillet cooked in brandy, Worcester sauce with mushrooms and cream. Then try the Mars bar gateaux: Bournville and Mars bars with marshmallow, double cream and topped with chocolate fudge topping.

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HE'S BEHIND YOU! Aladdin is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. Below left, King of the Jungle Joe Swash is Buttons in Cinderella at the Central Theatre, Chatham, while Steve Guttenberg comes all the way from Hollywood to Bromley to star in Cinderella

Festive fun
for families

Yell your way around the county's pantos

FAMILY fun is in plentiful supply this Christmas with an array of pantomimes across the county.

Emma Barton, who played Honey in EastEnders, stars alongside children's TV favourite Stephen Mulhern and local legend Dave Lee in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The show runs at The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, until Sunday, January 18. Phone 01227 787787, or book online at www.marlowetheatre.com.

Jack and the Beanstalk at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, stars former Hollyoaks actor Jake Hendriks, who played Father Kieron in the teen soap. Catch him in action until Sunday, January 4. Tickets are avail-

FAMILY PANTOMIME FUN

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able from 01622 758611 or www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

The cast of Dick Whittington is ready to take audiences at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on a journey to find the streets paved with gold.

Kate Wright is Dick, while Bob Osborne plays Sarah the Cook and Natalie Hubbard is Captain Cods Eye. Tickets for the show, which runs until Saturday, January 10, are available from 0870 4000890 or www.leascliffhall.org.uk.

Local actor Alex Tomkins is in Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves at the Theatre Royal Margate until Saturday, January 3. To book, phone 01227 787787 or 0845 1301786.

The Bill's Chris Ellison pounds a new beat as the dastardly Abanazar in Aladdin at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. He stars alongside GMTV's Toonattik's Anna Williamson until Sunday, January 4. Phone 01892 530613/532072, or see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

The Central Theatre in Chatham is staging Cinderella this year and I'm A Celebrity... star Joe Swash swings in to play Buttons until Sunday, January 4. Phone 01634 338338, or see www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

Captain Hook's sidekick Smee is played by Joe Pasquale in Peter Pan at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford. Enjoy the fun until Sunday, January



11. For tickets, phone 01322 220000, or see www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Dick Whittington shoulders his backpack at the Granville Theatre, Ramsgate, until Sunday, January 4. For tickets, phone 01843 591750.

Police Academy star Steve Guttenberg is in Cinderella at The Churchill in Bromley. He is playing alongside comedienne Helen Lederer until Sunday, January 18. Phone the box office on 0870 060 6620, or book at www.churchilltheatre.co.uk.

Former Big Brother housemate Paul 'Bubble' Ferguson stars in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Swallows Leisure Centre, Sittingbourne.

The show, which runs until Sunday, December 28, also features CBBC's Tracy Beaker star Ben Hanson and Briony Price, who rose to fame on How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria? To book, call 01795 420420.



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with
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SAFARI

Thursday, January 1
Port Lympne
Wild Animal Park, near Hythe

START the New Year by connecting with nature on a breathtaking safari at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park.

Following the excesses of Christmas, a ride in the park's specially commissioned vehicle would be just the way to blow away the cobwebs.

Discover the many animals roaming free in the 100-acre African Experience site, against the backdrop of stunning views across Romney Marsh towards France.

Visitors could spot giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, ostrich, black rhino, sitatunga, blue wildebeest, eland, Defassa waterbuck, red lechwe, Grant's and Grevy's zebras and more.

Each safari tour will be accompanied by a guide who will answer questions about conservation projects and the animals. Set in 600 acres, the park is home to the largest breeding herd of



Picture: NEVILLE ERIKSSON

black rhinos outside Africa and its group of 25 western lowland gorillas welcomed its newest baby just weeks ago.

Safaris leave at 10am and midday, and places must be booked in advance.

Tickets cost £12 for adults, £9 for children and are free for under-fours, with discounts for groups of six or more.

For more information, you can visit www.totallywild.net, or phone 01303 264647.

I SHOULD COCO BOXING DAY MASKED BALL

Friday, December 26
The Loft, Maidstone

CLUBBERS can expect to bump into anyone from Batman to Fonejacker at a special event on Boxing Day. The I Should Coco Boxing

Day Masked Ball will be one of the indie scene's biggest dates so far, inviting clubbers to continue the Christmas celebrations with a



mammoth evening of top tunes and festive fun.

So, music fans, escape the family game of Monopoly and head for the dance-floor to work off those mince pies.

In Room 1, resident DJs Graeme Doyle and Liam K will be playing the best in indie and electro, while in Room 2 Paul Richards of local band One Day Elliott will join Dan Slope, star of Five's hit series Human Guinea Pigs, to showcase their rock, emo and heavy-metal sounds.

With some great drinks deals, I Should Coco is gearing up for another night of great entertainment on a credit-crunching budget.

Entry costs £4 before 11pm and £5 after, with a £1 discount for NUS members.

For more information, call 07739 713890 or email jeff@club-class.org.

You can find out more about other upcoming events online at www.myspace.com/ishouldcocomaiddstone.

FRANCES KNIGHT

Wednesday, December 31
Harbour Café Bar, Margate

WELCOME the New Year in the company of acclaimed jazz pianist Frances Knight.

The Canterbury-based performer has been involved in the London and South East jazz scene for many years and has impressed critics with her fantastic musical skills.

She has written, performed and recorded with artists such as Jan Ponsford, Sarah Jane Morris, Paul Booth and Tony Coe.

Showing a taste for the exotic, Knight also plays with London's hottest Argentinian tango band Los Mareados. She also studies the bandoneon, a small accordion popular in Latin America.

Her appearance is the latest in a new series of concerts linked to the famous Vortex Jazz Club in London.

Floor singers are invited to take part in the gig and it would be an impressive addition to any CV to say they had performed with Frances Knight. For more information, phone the venue on 01843 290110.

Tickets for the New Year's Eve event cost £36, including a three-course dinner. Phone or visit the Harbour Café Bar to book.



Picture: MARTIN ELIOTT

CANTERBURY LEISURE

Talented acts line up to entertain in the lounge

ENJOY the break between Christmas and New Year at the Grey Lady Music Lounge in Tunbridge Wells.

The twice-weekly showcase of talent, Paul Dunton and Guests, will welcome Mechanical Sunrise, Henry Willard, Tehillah Commission and headliners Hoath to the venue in The Pantiles on Sunday. The event starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £4. For details see www.myspace.com/paulduntonandguests or www.thegreylady.co.uk.

See in the New Year at a fabulous VIP party

FEEL Full Length and Fabulous this New Year's Eve at the G Casino at Westwood Cross, Broadstairs.

The casino's party will offer VIP treatment to guests, who will be welcomed with champagne, a photo shoot, a magician, a live band and a disco. There will be a buffet and the chance to party into the New Year with an ABBA tribute show and late barbecue.

Tickets cost £50, with £5 from each going to the Pilgrim's Hospice. Phone 01843 579999, or see www.gcasino.co.uk.

New Year's Eve party is right up your street

NEW Year's Eve will be celebrated in style at the Orange Street Music Venue in Canterbury.

The act had yet to be confirmed at the time of writing, but there will be quality live music to help revellers usher in 2009. People can also expect good food, fine wine, champagne, drinks offers and good company to welcome the New Year. The party starts at 8pm - see www.orangestreetmusic.com.

Oops...our leisure page took a set back in time

APOLOGIES to those left a little confused by our leisure section last week.

Gremlins crept into the works and for reasons unknown we managed to reproduce a page which had originally run in January.

So we apologise for anyone who saw an event only to discover they were a good 12 months late in looking to buy tickets.

Normal service has resumed this week. Gremlins have been sacked.

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The fascinating history of Leas Cliff Hall. See the leisure channel



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Top five Kent gigs

1. D-FINITIVE - Space (from Tenterden)
2. Steve Furlong - To Fall With You (from Birchington)
3. Ron Bowdery - Strange Sights on Bluebell Hill (from New Eltham)
4. The Flack - Animal (from Deal)
5. Shelta - Daze & Nights (from Bexley)

Gigs live up to an indulgent promise

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE GOOD people at the Gulbenkian Theatre have put thoughts of Christmas over-indulgence aside to ensure the new year starts at pace.

The Canterbury theatre's arts team has resisted the temptation to join the rest of the working world in the annual pre-Christmas wind-down by lining up five nights of top music in January.

The month kicks off with jazz, moves on to 60s legends and finishes with Eastern drums.

There's more on the Gulbenkian's January programme below. For further details, visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.

Monday, January 12 - Open Mic Jazz Singers' Night, 8pm.

Wannabe Louis Armstrongs and Nina Simones can take to the stage at the theatre's open mic night.

Tickets cost £4.90.

Monday, January 19 - John Leyton, Craig Douglas and The Flames, 7.45pm

Sixties singing stars John Leyton and Craig Douglas will perform at the Kent University Rock'n'Roll Society gig, backed by The Flames.

Between them, John and Craig recorded massive hits which defined the era, enjoying chart success with hits such as Johnny Remember Me, Wild Wind and Only Sixteen.

Tickets £10, concessions £8.

Saturday, January 24 - Paul Jones and Digby Fairweather, 7.45pm



The show features the dynamic new teaming of Paul Jones - 60s chart-topping star of Manfred Mann, the Manfreds and later his own Blues Band - and Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen, poll-winners of Marston's British Jazz Awards small group category 2005/6.

Tickets cost £20

Wednesday, January 28 - Jazz @ 5, 5pm to 6pm

University students and staff musicians will perform jazz standards and vocal numbers at the Gulbenkian Café Bar, giving stressed-out students an ideal day to wind down.



TASTY OFFERINGS: Dulsori (left) and Paul Jones of Manfred Mann fame are just two of the musical treats to help ease you into the new year at Canterbury's Gulbenkian

The hour-long performance is free and open to all.

Friday, January 30 - Dulsori, 7.45pm

Dulsori perform their Drums of Korea show on Friday, January 30, bringing the month's music to a close.

The band, whose name translates as 'heartbeat of the land', were formed in 1984 to preserve traditions and to promote the Korean traditional performing arts.

They will perform their Drums of Korea show, which has taken audiences across the country by storm. Tickets cost £15.

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THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX (U)



The once joyous kingdom of Dor has become a miserable place. Despereaux Tilling, a tiny mouse with big ideas, teams up with fellow outcast Roscuro the rat and sets out on a journey to change things for the better in this animated hit.

INKHEART (PG)



Meggie's father has the ability to bring to life characters from books that he reads to her at night. But when an evil villain kidnaps Meggie's father to bring other evil villains from books to life, it's down to Meggie and her friends to do things she has only ever read about and save the planet from true evil.

Join Danny and say yes

BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

WHAT happens to a man who says 'yes' to everything?

In short, he becomes a best-selling author, finds the girl of his dreams, carves a career as a TV presenter and ends up on a Hollywood set with Jim Carrey.

This is what has happened to Danny Wallace, author of Yes Man, first published in 2005 but now repackaged in time for the release on Boxing Day of the film of the same name, starring Jim Carrey in the title role.

Even now, Dundee-born Danny, 32, about to embark on a promotional tour in America with Carrey, finds this whole episode of his life quite surreal and has included a new chapter at the end of the latest edition of Yes Man about all of his experiences in Hollywood.

"Hollywood was great. I got to go on the set and meet all the people. It was surreal turning up and seeing a chair with your name on it," he says.

"It was made from book to film very quickly. It was amazing seeing it gradually become this bigger, all-American thing."

Meeting Jim Carrey was also great, he enthuses.

"There he was on the screen and when he left the screen he was suddenly by your side, which didn't seem to make any sense.

"From the moment he appeared, I was chatting with him and it suddenly seemed very normal.

"Then part of your brain just goes 'Hang on, that's Jim Carrey!' and you must try not to give that away.

"We talked about very normal stuff, like what he'd watched on TV, but what is extraordinary is when the cameras are on and he turns into Jim Carrey the film star. He throws himself into it."

In one scene Carrey had to turn around and knock someone's drink over, Danny recalls.

"I watched him do the scene four or five times because he wasn't happy with it. He did something quite special and pulled off a classic Jim Carrey moment, which ended up with him fracturing a couple of his ribs.

"The next time I saw him walking by he had an ice pack and I said 'It was worth it, though' and he agreed it was totally worth it."

The original idea for Yes Man came from



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Danny's own negative attitude, he admits. "I was saying 'no' a lot and staying in a lot. I was quite happy just to watch TV.

"My friends would ask me out and I'd say 'I can't, I'm doing something...' and it would just

AFFIRMATIVE: Danny Wallace has gone from being Dave Gorman's hapless sidekick to an internationally-known writer and presenter, all because he said yes

he was watching The Weakest Link. It was a habit I had to get out of.

"Someone said to me 'You should say 'yes' more and it struck a chord. That was the best thing in the world. It means you take a chance, grab an opportunity. If you say 'yes', everything can change. If you say 'no', nothing ever changes.

Today, he is still saying 'yes' more than he used to, he reflects.

"I'll end up going across town to see a very odd-named band who I would never in a million years have wanted to see and will probably never see again, but you're as likely to meet the love of your life at a bad party as at a good one.

"That's a good way to live your life. Excitement can be just around the corner, hiding in the littlest things."



YES MAN
Certificate 12A

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CANTERBURY SHOPPING

Last-minute present buying's a close shave

ANYONE searching for a last-minute Christmas present could give the gift of immaculate grooming with Remington.

Women can tame their locks and create a fantastic hair-do with the Professional Pro Curl Tong (£24.99), or enjoy sleek skin with the EP5000 Bodycurve Dual Head Epilator (£49.99), which doubles as a shaver and epilator.

Men can save face with the PG410 Designer Stubble Kit (£29.99), which will help them maintain an effortless five o'clock shadow. Available from Boots and other leading retailers.

Brush up on some great festive gifts for teeth

HELP promote oral health and give your child a fun stocking-filler with a TePe Christmas toothbrush.

The festively-decorated toothbrushes are available in both child and adult sizes and help make brushing more fun.

With families looking forward to a feast of Christmas fare it is as important as ever to keep teeth clean and fresh.

Priced at just £1.49 and approved by the British Dental Health Foundation, TePe Christmas toothbrushes are available from dental practices and pharmacies.

Don't miss out on last day to Select an outfit

TODAY is the last day shoppers can take advantage of great savings at Select.

The ladies' clothes store at Westwood Cross in Thanet has been offering 50 per cent off selected partywear throughout December and 20 per cent off outerwear.

Hurry to the shopping centre today to avoid missing out on the last pre-Christmas discounts.

For details about events at Westwood Cross, see www.westwoodx.co.uk.

Mediterranean luxury is yours for less in sale

BUY luxury Italian home furnishings at discounted prices at Natuzzi's in House of Fraser, Maidstone.

The department – which can be found on the first floor of the Fremlin Walk store – is offering 20 per cent off all full-price items until January 31, so do not miss the chance to start the New Year with some fabulous new furnishings for your home.

Terms and conditions apply. For details of other events at Fremlin Walk, see www.fremlinwalk.co.uk.

Winter wonderland to go on after Christmas

BARGAIN-hunters can still enjoy festive fun at Bluewater even when Christmas Day has passed.

The centre's Winter Wonderland offers plenty of entertainment for visitors of all ages, from the ice rink and live performances on the bandstand to cooking demonstrations at the Ice Palace.

Winter Wonderland, which was opened by former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell, will run until Saturday, January 3.

For more information, visit the website at www.bluewater.co.uk.



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YOUR TV REVIEW

DOCTOR WHO
BBC One, 6pm, Christmas Day

BY TOM BETTS

WHAT better way to celebrate the fact that your stomach is groaning under the weight of too much festive gorging than with an evening in front of the box on Christmas Day?

While some families like to play charades or talk to each other, most sensible people decline any of that nonsense and prefer to zone out and ignore everyone else for as long as possible. I call these wise souls, 'my kind of people'.

This scenario is what a show like Doctor Who was made for and the Christmas installment, The Next Doctor, should keep you entertained for a time as the inevitable inter-family bickering begins.

The Christmas show may not even throw up the answer to the big question at all, (that being, who will be the next incarnation of the Doctor?), but at least we should all tune in to see just who may fill David Tennant's size nines.

Last year's effort, with Kylie Minogue and a giant flying spaceship called the Titanic was very disappointing and not of the quality now expected for the BBC's standard-bearing Christmas show, a mantle once carried by EastEnders – even if that now seems odd.

Those stomping party-poopers the Cybermen are back for this year's adventure and are sure to be wreaking havoc in a were-not-quite-as-good-as-the-Daleks style.

But most of all, it is just who will be Who that will fascinate most.

David Tennant has been a huge hit with the masses, and in particular



WHO'S WHO?: Christmas is the time to tune in and see who will take over from David Tennant

younger fans, but among much of the hardcore fan base he is seen as too lightweight or not quirky enough to be thought of as a classic Doctor.

David Morrissey, who has been cropping up in the trailers to the episode, is hot favourite to take on the role, but surely that would be a little too obvious.

You would hope that the creators will want to pull off a surprise and will have kept the character's next face under wraps.

Other contenders include Little Britain's David Walliams, Cold Feet's Jimmy Nesbitt and John Simm, who appeared before as the hero's nemesis, The Master.

Paterson Joseph, star of Peep Show could become the first black actor to take on the role or maybe Jennifer Saunders will become the first female of time travel.

Whoever does end up occupying the Tardis the transformation will be one of the most memorable television moments of the year, and it's much better than talking and stuff.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

RETREATING to a quiet, private place puts you back in touch with your true essence. Recently, your identity has been wrapped up in your social circle. Now you're starting to realise there are differences between you and your friends. For one thing, you're more visionary.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

EVEN though you're a creature of habit, you aren't immune to adventure. If you feel you're in a rut this is a great time to make a huge transformation. Travelling abroad will be wonderfully enriching. This journey could put you on the path of romance.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

THIS week is wonderful for embarking on a whole new routine. Improving your diet and launching an exercise routine will both pay off handsomely. If your job has been jeopardising your health, you need to find another situation. A new position could fall in your lap.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

WHETHER you know it or not, your words have tremendous power so watch what you say. Get into the habit of offering constructive criticisms and optimistic forecasts. Although it's not in your nature to view the glass as half full, you can overcome this tendency.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

BE mindful of the company you keep. If you've been hanging around a bunch of pessimists, their attitude will cloud your thinking. When left to your own devices, your true spirit will shine through. Soon, you'll start attracting the sort of people who enjoy your optimism.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

A POSSIBLE affair with someone sexy causes you to see yourself in a whole new light. You may be inspired to undergo an elaborate program of self improvement. What once seemed to be an inevitable arrangement now looks like a personal choice.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

You've always prided yourself on being a practical, responsible person, but now you're starting to suspect you've been missing out on life. Once you get an initial adrenaline rush, you'll become more daring. Friends and family will be surprised as you yearn for adventure.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

HAVING a secret stash of cash may appeal to you. Conventional wisdom says that having a year's worth of salary tucked into savings can prove liberating. You'll be much less prone to stay in a troubled relationship or stick with a terrible job if you have the means to strike get out.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

You're starting to wonder whether you're on the right career path. Changing track will be difficult, but worthwhile. You've been blessed with an entrepreneurial spirit. Starting your own business is a distinct possibility. Explore opportunities related to investments or construction.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOU may feel drawn to an intellectual or studious person with an air of mystery. If you're already in a relationship, you'll need to think things through thoroughly before you make any decisions. Finding out what makes each other tick can greatly improve your relationship.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

LAUNCHING a home renovation will be stressful, but rewarding. A sensitive creature like you can't handle all of that sawing, hammering, and dust. Search for a temporary resting place in a quiet, secluded neighbourhood. This will give you a chance to explore your emotions.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

FACING your deepest fear is scary, but empowering. Status has always been very important to you. Without it, you're always worried that people won't respect you. Actually, the truth is different. People love you for who you are, not what you do.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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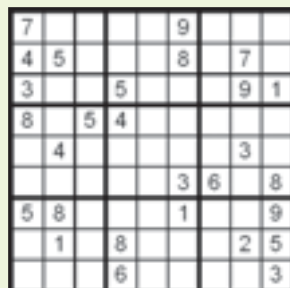
CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No68

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

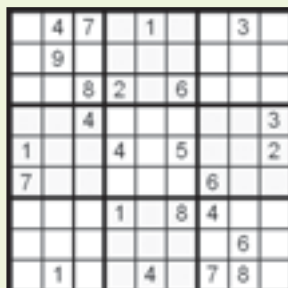
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

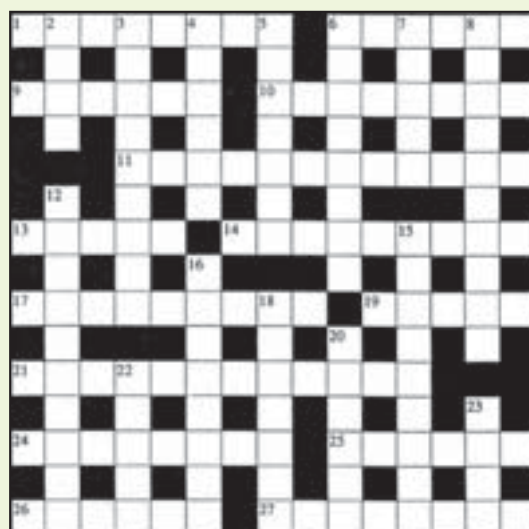
ACROSS

- 1 Hot stuff with aspic cooked inside (8)
- 6 Bet Sid converted flat (6)
- 9 Hooligan Virginia destroyed land (6)
- 10 Floor covering, sort used by printers (8)
- 11 Not being enterprising having a house on the pavement (7,5)
- 13 Theatre-in-the-round (5)
- 14 Corner wriggler used as bait (9)
- 17 Replace catalogue - clot! (9)
- 19 Earthen pot obtained during said sea-trip (5)
- 21 Knowing enough to be reassured by the doctor? (4-8)
- 24 He quips about trapping youth leader with bodily development (8)
- 25 Means of removing hard water from windscreen perhaps (2-4)
- 26 Contort becoming whiter (6)
- 27 Oddly in a rough way (8)

DOWN

- 2 Jack's reportedly following a Dutch football team (4)
- 3 Catch seat first on part of bicycle (9)
- 4 Accountant left one company cotton cloth (6)
- 5 Plant, one taking on large number (7)
- 6 Lying Ben removed graciously and in a kindly way (8)
- 7 Some trade terms used are enough to put one off (5)
- 8 Deprive little devil taking on his version (10)
- 12 Nearly all to catch the girl completely (10)
- 15 Web found everything in broad earth (9)
- 16 150 I name I question going to eastern hospital (8)
- 18 US author found the gold hidden with more gold (7)
- 20 Smear some of this mud generally in (6)
- 22 Is last character taken in by officer or composer? (5)
- 23 Ringing laughter (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Fourth part (8)
- 6 Drooped (6)
- 9 Snuffle (6)
- 10 Fashion shop (8)
- 11 Rowdy frolic (6-6)
- 13 Experience (5)
- 14 Male wedding attendants (9)
- 17 I wondered (anag.) (9)
- 19 Devastate (5)
- 21 Myopic (5-7)
- 24 Caribou (8)
- 25 Stumble (6)
- 26 Pointed writing instrument (6)
- 27 Dire (8)

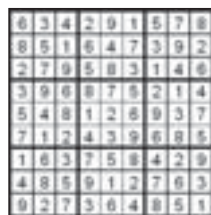
DOWN

- 2 Bone in arm (4)
- 3 Do resolve (anag.) (5,4)
- 4 On fire (6)
- 5 Cylindrical (7)
- 6 Resonating chamber (8)
- 7 Showiness (5)
- 8 Cheerful enthusiasm (10)
- 12 Ornamentation (10)
- 15 Stood across (9)
- 16 Greek hero (8)
- 18 Had a bet (7)
- 20 Itself (anag.) (6)
- 22 Of the kidneys (5)
- 23 Lima's country (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No67

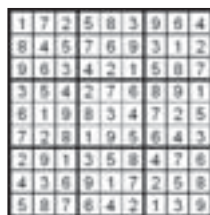
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No67

ACROSS: 1 Slavery 5 Ogresh 9 Ivor 10 Swan around 12 Strike up 13 Grease 14 Relief worker 17 Presentiment 21 Inform 23 Biarritz 24 Buttoned up 25 Ashy 26 All told 27 Jetting. DOWN: 2 Levity 3 Verdigris 4 Russell 6 Glasgow 7 Evoke 8 Sinister 11 Apple-pie bed 15 Retardant 16 Tranquil 18 Nominal 19 Example 20 Itchen 22 Octet.

QUICK SOLUTION No68

ACROSS: 1 Quadrant 6 Saged 9 Snivel 10 Boutique 11 Razzle-dazzle 13 Enjoy 14 Groomsman 17 Rindown 19 Wreck 21 Short-sighted 24 Rindown 25 Rafter 26 Syllus 27 Dreadful. DOWN: 2 Ulna 3 Dover sole 4 Abilaze 5 Tubular 6 Soundbox 7 Gift 8 Ebuilance 12 Einrichtm 15 Stradled 16 Odysseus 18 Wagged 20 Siffle 22 Real 23 Peru.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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(Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)



WOMEN seeking men

LOVELY SUSIE
Sensitive, shy and caring lady, 20, loves life and sunsets, beaches, country walks, romantic meals, cinema; WLTW handsome gent to find love with. Box 446323

I LOVE FOOTBALL
Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494

MAYBE MORE
Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more. WLTW fun man 25-30, I'm female, 26, brown hair/blue eyes, average build. Box 445622

ATTENTION! TALL WHITE GUY REQUIRED
Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 442666

MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 508053

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends and hopefully someone special. Box 446039

LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND
38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676

DON'T LET ME DOWN
Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for LTR. Box 446684

DON'T PASS ME BY
Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897993

NO TIES
Lonely, bored, professional Turnbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTW slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 446457

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT...
Shy female, 40, 5ft5, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, winning and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763

COME ON OVER
Divorced female, 40s, likes fishing, swimming, walking and eating out, WLTW young man, for friendship and more. Box 446097

ENJOY LIFE
I'm a bubbly, confident, friendly PA, lives in Medway, enjoys playing sports, being on the water! I enjoy life and look on the bright side. Box 894052

FAST LOVE
Single lady, 43, likes gardening, eating out, cinema, music and more, seeking male for friendship and maybe more. Box 446991

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE
Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

MISS JULIE
Bubbly blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love... Box 888162

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)
Deaf-based lady, 43, divorced, blonde, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL
Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLTW a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102

PASSION FOR YOU
Medium build woman, 41, 5ft2, kind, caring, loving and tactile, GSOH, looking to meet a nice man for a LTR. Box 446890

FUN AND ROMANCE
Attractive woman, 41, 5ft6, blonde hair/blue eyes, I'd like to meet a guy for romance and fun, I enjoy cinema, pubs, meals out. Box 447009

CAN YOU HANDLE ME?
I'm a 42 year old professional lady, long dark hair, brown eyes, petite with a wacky SOH. Looking for friends to chill with, then who knows? Box 884441

BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY
Caring lovely lady, 42, genuine, short brown hair, laughs confidence! seeking loyal, genuine person, someone special to put the spark back into my life. Box 895781

LET'S CLICK
WLTW a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847

FAIRY TALE ENDING
Good-looking slim blonde, 42, tired of kissing frogs, seeking an intelligent, solvent professional male to be my prince. Box 446521

WHITE ROSES
Very attractive female, 42, slim, green eyes, high cheek bones, wicked SOH! Loves to make people laugh, seeking intelligent, well-mannered, kind man for friendship/relationship. Box 446543

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

ANIMAL LOVER?
Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

COOK UP A STORM
Turnbridge Wells lady, brown hair/eyes, 38, I'm a teacher and love theatre, reading, cinema, swimming, travel. Looking for like minded chap for happy times. Box 444923

FUTURE FUN, PASSION & ADVENTURE!
Separated brilliant brunette, 39, single mum, 5ft7, likes swimming and house music, WLTW a kind and considerate tall white male with dark shoulder length hair. Box 445684

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS
Laid-back single mum, very bubbly outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102

LOVELY JOSEPHINE
Passionate and fun-loving 43yr old female, enjoys clubbing, meals out and cooking, WLTW a male to share evenings out with. Box 445225

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Separated brilliant brunette, 39, single mum, 5ft7, likes swimming and house music, WLTW a kind and considerate tall white male with dark shoulder length hair. Box 445684

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Box 444366

ALL THAT I NEED
Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N.S. GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50, 45yr old. Box 428533

DIG DEEPER
Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55, Dover Box 435441

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE
Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, you'll need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640

WHERE R U?
Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an honest, loyal man that can make me happy again. Box 887347

ARE YOU MY MR RIGHT?
Independent, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WLTW a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

COMPANIONSHIP LAUGHTER, MORE
Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443682

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THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS
Hi, I'm Teresa, 53yr young, like animals, gardening and ordinary things! WLTW a nice man, my age or younger, for a possible relationship. Box 444707

NOTHING VENTURED...
New to this, I'm a 53yr old woman, seeking loving, fun, nice man. I enjoy walks, countryside, having fun, travel, cinema, music, eating out. WLTW caring, genuine man. Box 446822

SEEING THROUGH THE SHYNESS
Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLTW nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446393

SEEKING SOULMATE
Gorgeous slim attractive young-looking female, 54, active, wicked SOH, 5ft5, blonde, sociable, loves music, dancing, travelling; seeking warm, sincere man for genuine companionship. Box 446634

ENJOY LIFE
55yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, 5ft2, I'm divorced with a grown up family. I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out. WLTW caring, genuine man. Box 446798

NO SHALLOWNESS
Intelligent lady, 55, 5ft8, large build, looking for a nice, genuine male who enjoys theatre, meals, laughter, music, relaxing and good conversation. Box 444145

SOPHISTICATED SUE
Sue, 56yr old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, WLTW a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443929

FRIENDS FIRST
Sincere female, 57, caring, separated, I enjoy nights out, reading, walking, various activities, just separated, looking for a friend and then see from there! Box 437420

THE BEST CHRISTMAS OF THEM ALL
Divorced lonely female, 61, 5ft6, slim, looking for similar male with GSOH for chats, dates, friendship and perhaps more. Box 446987

Women seeking women

THAT'S ME
Kind, loving, fun woman, passionate and considerate with a GSOH. I'm 24, 5ft5 and looking for an attractive female to share interests. Box 443340

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE
Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142

LOVE TO LOVE
Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wine, dining, socialising, holidays, walks, cinema, seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 446953

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY
52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, country-side, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship, possibly relationship Box 414143

WANTS TO COOK FOR TWO
Single male, 43, no ties, very genuine, slim, 6ft4, brown hair, green eyes, loves sport and soul music, WLTW a female to date. Box 445760

I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH
Very romantic, caring and loyal male, 44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair, great SOH, seeks female with similar interests for hopeful LTR. No time-wasters! Box 446120

BIG DEAL IN DEAL
Warm, tactile male, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

DOWN TO MARGATE!
Young-looking, slim male, 43yr old, 5ft10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, WLTW a mature lady for a committed long term relationship. Box 444708

YOUNG AT HEART
Dependable, easygoing guy, I love animals, good food, music, films, good conversation, country pubs. I'm 45, with blue eyes. Box 446871

FAITH IN LOVE
Recently widowed dad, 45, silver-haired, friendly, humorous, intelligent, fun-loving, caring man who's preferably Roman Catholic, for LTR. Box 884155

SHARE THE GOOD LIFE
Professional male, 45, own house, likes cinema, weekends away, the coast, a BBQ and good wine, looking for friendship, hopefully more. Box 446202

NEW TO TOWN
I'm fun in catering and WLTW nice, laid back woman, 40+, I'm male, 47, young looking, newly back on the dating scene! Box 447106

FILL THE GAP
Slim, athletic guy, 5ft11, dark hair/blue eyes, short hair, I like music, animals, sport. Seeking woman for serious relationship. I'm a happy chap, just missing something! Box 447106

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Slim build, 38yr old male, 5ft11, green eyes, single dad with 3 kids, enjoys life, dining out, walks and life, WLTW special lady for possible LTR. Box 886602

R U A MEET?
Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 91917

IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS
Sincere, 36yr old male, self-employed, seeks Miss Right, 30-40, for friendship/more. Box 783954

TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY
Shy but genuine, loving male, 39, medium build, likes football, rugby, socialising, meals, nights in; seeking similar lady to find lasting and true love with. Box 446339

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR
Outgoing young-minded male, 47, a smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, POI, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dance-floor with. Box 443750

HONEST AND KIND
New to area, 1m 47yr old chap, I ride a motorcycle and I'm looking for an uncomplicated woman. Box 447110

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Loving, fun, outgoing guy, 48, 6ft3, medium build, blue eyes, looking for friendship and maybe more, lets see! Box 447112

WELL DRESSED CHAP
Attractive black male, 6ft, 48, fit and healthy, I like swimming, a social drink, WLTW white lady, Kent based, someone fun to be with. Box 447073

ROMANCE, PASSION, LAUGHTER
Slim build male, 48, 6ft, dark brown hair, eyes, attractive, animated, confident, eclectic, seeking soul-mate 43-53 forever. Box 446553

FOUR EYES
Blond, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664

GOING SWIMMING!
Sincere, down-to-earth male, 47, 6ft, good-looking, athletic, own business, likes swimming, cinema, music, gigs, walking, seeking slim, laid-back lady, 28-45, for potential LTR. Box 440487

LOTS OF LOVE 2 GIVE
Ordinary guy, 49, who likes the simple things in life. I smoke and don't drink. Looking for a partner to share things with. Box 901111

QUIET LIFE
Seeking female company. I enjoy films, walking, popping down the rugby club, quiet drinks etc. I'm male, 52, 6ft tall, fair hair/blue eyes. Box 446278

LOVE AND ROMANCE
Kent area. I'm a 53yr old guy, kind, caring, slim-medium build, 5ft5. Looking for a friend and soul mate. Box 445248

PLANT THE SEEDS
Honest and loyal, 53yr old guy, 6ft 6in, considered attractive. I'm easy-going, with a GSOH. Looking for female company, to socialise with. I like DIY, gardening. Box 884003

ACTIVE & ATTRACTIVE
I'm 53, 5ft8, good-looking! Love sport, horses, animals generally, WLTW an honest, caring lady, preferably blonde, sporty, to get to know. Box 439298

Men seeking men

ARRESTING LOVE
Hi there, I'm 40, 6ft, green eyes, blond hair, own house, enjoy pubs, keeping fit, seeking similar male, sporty, for fun and maybe more. Box 438788

NATURE IS BETTER
Slim 44yr old male, likes swimming, cycling and watching DVDs, WLTW an older male for friendship and fun. Box 445848

JOINED IN LOVE?
Good, down-to-earth guy, 46, green eyes, dark hair, slim, enjoys holidays, music, pubs, eating out, looking for male, 35-50, for companionship. Box 441106

A LOVELY TIME
Keep-fit male, 55, white hair, slim, loves the arts, cooking, entertaining, theatre/opera/ballet, walks on beaches; seeking man to hug and spoil. Box 447141

TEXT REPLY: For your protection, you will not be allowed to swap contact details until you have exchanged five messages each. GUIDELINES: Private individuals seeking long-term, monogamous relationships should advertise in yourkating. We suggest that ads contain a self-description, age range, and lifestyle description. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any ad for any reason. Ads may not be submitted by persons younger than 18 years of age for publication or advertising. Also, no ads will be published seeking persons younger than 18 years of age. DISCLAIMER: KOS Media assumes no liability for the content of or reply to any personal advertisement. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content of all replies to any advertisement or recorded message and for any claims made against KOS Media as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold KOS Media harmless from all costs, expenses (including reasonable solicitor's fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. If you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. Service provided by g8wave Ltd. DATA PROTECTION: The People2People™ Internet site is provided by g8wave Ltd, 10 Tileyard Studios, Tileyard Road, London N7 9AH. g8wave Ltd will collect the details you provide when placing your ad, including your name and address and may use your information to send you information about related services and events operated by the company. Your name and address, but no other data, may also be passed on to KOS Media who may use it for their own marketing purposes. Your ad may appear in other newspapers and on the People2People™ Internet site, if you are not a BT telephone customer, please contact your service provider for details of their charges. "yourkating" is a trademark of g8wave Ltd.

NO HANG UPS
New to area, 1m 47yr old chap, I ride a motorcycle and I'm looking for an uncomplicated woman. Box 447110

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Loving, fun, outgoing guy, 48, 6ft3, medium build, blue eyes, looking for friendship and maybe more, lets see! Box 447112

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ROMANCE, PASSION, LAUGHTER
Slim build male, 48, 6ft, dark brown hair, eyes, attractive, animated, confident, eclectic, seeking soul-mate 43-53 forever. Box 446553

FOUR EYES
Blond, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664

GOING SWIMMING!
Sincere, down-to-earth male, 47, 6ft, good-looking, athletic, own business, likes swimming, cinema, music, gigs, walking, seeking slim, laid-back lady, 28-45, for potential LTR. Box 440487

LOTS OF LOVE 2 GIVE
Ordinary guy, 49, who likes the simple things in life. I smoke and don't drink. Looking for a partner to share things with. Box 901111

QUIET LIFE
Seeking female company. I enjoy films, walking, popping down the rugby club, quiet drinks etc. I'm male, 52, 6ft tall, fair hair/blue eyes. Box 446278

LOVE AND ROMANCE
Kent area. I'm a 53yr old guy, kind, caring, slim-medium build, 5ft5. Looking for a friend and soul mate. Box 445248

PLANT THE SEEDS
Honest and loyal, 53yr old guy, 6ft 6in, considered attractive. I'm easy-going, with a GSOH. Looking for female company, to socialise with. I like DIY, gardening. Box 884003

MOTORS NEWS



Drop in VAT means 500 is now a bargain buy

FIAT'S 500 which has caused a storm in the showroom can now be put on the road for under £8,000. Dealers, and buyers, have the Chancellor to thank after the reduction in VAT.

The 1.2-litre 500 Pop price had crept up to £8,100 during the summer but now you can get one on the road for £7,929.

With dealers offering spectacular finance deals and every one of them looking to win your business, don't forget to ask for a few extras as well.

In November, car sales in the UK fell 36.8 per cent to 100,333 units compared with the same month last year.



New eco-friendly cars 'show' the way forward

MERCEDES has unveiled three new environmentally-friendly 'show' cars.

Called BlueZero – to suggest 'blue skies and zero emissions' – the Mercedes concepts are to include an electric car and a concept powered by a hydrogen fuel cell.

Outside the 'green' bodywork is identical for all three prototypes.

All feature transparent cladding for the rear wheels to reduce resistance.

All the eco cars on show in America use the platform of the next-generation Mercedes B-class compact. The new B-class is to go on sale in Europe in 2012.

Hamilton's got it licked over on the Isle of Man

BRITISH F1 ace Lewis Hamilton is to feature on a series of stamps in the Isle of Man. They'll cost – well, they'll cost about the price of a stamp and will be released on January 15.

The IOM has beaten the Royal Mail which revealed it was considering a set of commemorative stamps featuring the McLaren driver.

It has been reported the Royal Mail's new stamp will be released early next year and they will serve as an accolade for the youngest driver to ever win the World Championship.

It would be a break with tradition for the Royal Mail which has already released its 2009 stamp schedule and has a policy of not featuring living non-royalty on stamps unless they are part of a larger group.



STYLISH: Volkswagen's dramatically styled Scirocco is a decent four-seater, a terrific drive and looks good value compared to its rivals priced at £20,940 for the standard trim

New Scirocco wards off chill of recession

VOLKSWAGEN'S reborn Scirocco coupé simply cannot help reminding us of the mid-70s original.

It's dramatically styled, a decent four-seater, a terrific drive and not a bad buy either.

Our test car was also in white, a favourite during the Mk I Scirocco era and soon dubbed the 'White Stiletto' by colleagues – a jibe at the preferred ladies' disco shoes of the 1970s.

But while 'fashionistas' might dread a return of the ubiquitous white 'Sharon Shoe', surely no-one fears a new Scirocco... even in white?

Our flagship model was spec'd up with more than three grand's worth of extras including leather seats (£1,535), but looks good value in £20,940 standard trim.

I also liked its slick turbocharged Golf GTI engine, though there are now 2.0-litre diesel and entry level turbocharger/supercharger 1.4-litre petrol options.

The 'GTI' version though blends power and a snarling exhaust note when required, while also cruising smoothly and reasonably economically, thanks to a tallish sixth gear.

The chassis delivers a similarly even-hand-

ROAD TEST VW SCIROCCO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

ed approach; the new Scirocco range features VW's Adaptive Chassis Control system (ACC) as standard so this already versatile car can match all moods and situations.

'Normal' is the all-rounder and 'Comfort' is great for long distances, but 'Sport' soon became my default, because it shows the car's tautness and flat cornering to effect without punishing driver and occupants.

The cabin shows less design input than for the muscular exterior, but it is a neat and well-arranged job using robust quality materials and there is plenty of room in the back.

You could crib about the high rear window line and lowered headroom, but if they are deal breakers then check out the Golf GTI instead.

I take similar issue with whinges about the Scirocco's boot; it is massive for this type of car and entirely in keeping with the dynasty's mix of sportiness and practicality yet you hear moans like "the loading lip's too high", "it's not that big" – what do people expect from a coupé that handles like a dream, seats four properly and costs much less than upmarket rivals?

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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BY STEVE LOADER @
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Insignia hatchback and saloon range: urban 15.8 (17.9) - 37.2 (7.6), extra-urban 35.8 (7.9) - 58.9 (4.8), combined 24.4 (11.6) - 48.7 (5.8), CO₂ Emissions 154 - 272 g/km.

Vauxhall Insignia from £15,600/74 OTR. Model Shown Insignia Elite from £20,543.29 plus metallic paint at £367.02 and 19" alloys at £391.49. (Vaux56001)

10% OFF Save £££s All 08/08 used cars

Agila

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
01	51	Agila Enjoy	1.2	5	Green tea	76,350	2,595
08	08	Agila Design	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	1,750	9,350

Tigra

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Star silver	15,975	9,495
08	08	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Antigua	9,650	11,995

Astra

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
00	00	Astra Club Auto	1.6	5	Silver	37,000	2,695
05	55	Astra Breeze	1.6	5	Silver lightening	38,000	6,795
06	06	Astra Sxi CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	20,850	7,695
07	07	Astra Energy Auto	1.8	5	Star Silver	15,300	7,575
07	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Panacotta	8,275	9,995
07	57	Astra Club CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	10,680	9,695
07	57	Astra SRI	1.8	5	Silver Lightning	9,650	8,995
07	57	Astra Sport Twin Top	1.8	2	Star Silver	14,650	11,995
08	57	Astra Breeze Plus	1.7D	5	Star silver	12,300	10,995
08	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Star silver	17,300	10,495
08	08	Astra Sxi	1.4	5	Black Sapphire	6,300	9,495
08	08	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Star Silver	9,350	10,495
08	08	Exclusive IS200 Conv	1.9D	2	Black	8,885	16,995
08	08	Sxi Sports Hatch	1.4	3	Star silver	7,350	9,995
08	08	Sri CDTi Ext pack	1.9D	5	Star silver	5,630	13,995
08	08	Sxi Sports Hatch	1.4	3	Black sapphire	3,200	9,995
08	08	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Star silver	3,460	10,895
08	08	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Moonland	4,500	9,495
08	08	Astra Breeze Plus	1.4	3	Black sapphire	TBA	10,495
08	08	Astra Breeze	1.4	5	Black sapphire	TBA	9,995

Signum

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	57	Exclusiv CDTi Nav	1.9D	5	Star silver	9,950	12,995

Corsa

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Air blue	15,800	7,495
08	08	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	4,700	13,995
06	56	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Air blue	15,800	7,495
08	08	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	4,700	13,995
08	08	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Star silver	TBA	10,495
08	08	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Metro blue	TBA	11,345
08	08	Corsa Design	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	10,495
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Flame red	TBA	9,495
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795
08	08	Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	TBA	9,795

Meriva

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
04	04	Meriva Life A/c	1.6	5	Spearmint silver	43,000	4,695
06	56	Design CDTi Ext pack	1.7D	5	Metro blue	29,170	7,995
08	08	Meriva CDTi Breeze +	1.3D	5	Star silver	3,350	11,995
08	08	Meriva Life A/c	1.4	5	Lancelot	2,870	8,495
08	08	Meriva Breeze	1.4	5	Black sapphire	12,500	8,995

Vectra

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	05	Vectra Sri	2.2	5	Star silver	30,550	6,995
08	57	CDTi Excl Auto	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	5,350	11,995
08	08	Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	9,380	10,495
08	08	Vectra Exclusiv	1.8	5	Black sapphire	6,000	8,495

Zafira

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	05	Zafira Life	1.8	5	Ultra blue	38,250	5,995
05	05	Zafira Design	1.6	5	Star silver	39,000	6,195
05	05	Zafira Life A/c	1.8	5	Star silver	52,300	5,995
05	55	New Zafira Life A/c	1.6	5	Flame red	31,650	6,995
08	08	New Breeze CDTi +	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,985	13,995
08	08	Zafira Club CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	8,500	12,495

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

POPULAR SUPERMINIS

AS more people downsize their car and their fuel and road tax bills, chances are that one or all of the following popular used superminis will be on their shopping list. Year in, year out they are the UK's most consistent best-sellers – a trend expected to become even firmer in the current economic climate. A word of warning though; as second-hand prices harden, make sure you don't pay more than it would cost to keep your old car longer or even make you think about a new car.

FORD FIESTA



FORD'S hugely successful supermini marches on with a new model just out, but don't expect weaker used prices for older versions. Volatile fuel costs, draconian road taxes and fears of a recession have made the Fiesta a top target for its reliability, decent driving experience, engines to suit all pockets and three and five-door body styles. Ford has also regularly produced special and limited editions, but watch that you don't pay more for extra goodies, especially when largely cosmetic.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL CORSA



VAUXHALL'S Corsa was created to attack the Ford Fiesta head on, yet has never quite achieved the volumes of its rival. Nevertheless, it offers the same virtues, plus a greater range of engines including a punchy and frugal, if a little buzzy, three-cylinder petrol engine now in greater demand due to these straitened times. Several generations of Corsa followed a 'teardrop' body style, but the latest car is bigger and more aggressively sculpted – almost a 'supersize supermini'.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

RENAULT CLIO



DOWNSIZING can be sensible and chic with the Clio and the most recent generations have married durability and driving fun with Gallic charm. Again, the option of three or five doors is a big selling point, but our French contender also has the bonus of excellent diesel versions, though the cost of the actual fuel versus petrol argues against it currently. The Clio design has tended to be highly practical as well as charming, with good space for rear passengers.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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5dr, Hatchback, Met.
Red, FSH, 1 Owner
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01234 567890

£7
Lineage
p/wk

Lineage
Approx. 20 words

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback,
Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec.
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles,
01234 567890

£9.50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words



FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback, Metallic Red, Full Service
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Sunroof, 30,000 Miles, Tel 01234 567890

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Max. 25 words

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one day become a collectors item.
This car is a 2 owner from new with
full service history mainly main
dealer. 2.0 engine which produces
150bhp, 5 speed manual gearbox, a
test drive is welcome, red, 94000
miles, £1495, Courtney Cars,
Charing, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

SPIDER, 3.2 V6, g571ty, alloy wheels,
anti-lock brakes, climate control,
drivers airbag, electric windows,
leather interior, metallic paint,
passenger airbag, power steering,
remote central locking, side airbags,
tinted glass, traction control, trip
computer, blue, 9000 miles, £20995,
Thames Group Turbidity Wells,
Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549786
(TRADE)

AUDI

A2, SE 5dr, gk02 oec, remote central
locking, remote alarm, rear
wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth
upholstery, electric front windows,
electric mirrors, adjustable steering
column, height adjustable seat,
traction control, air conditioning,
climate control, cd player, radio, twin
air bags, abs, power steering, alloy
wheels, blue, 58000 miles, £4995,
Kings Highway Garage Ltd,
Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

A3, TDI Sport 5dr (53.3 mpg £120
RFL grp 11 ins), a558ka, immobiliser,
remote central locking, cloth
upholstery, colour coded interior, head
rests, height adjustable seat,
lumbar support, folding rear seats,
rear headrests, adjustable steering
column, power steering, traction
control, abs, child locks, multiple
airbags, colour coded body, metallic
paintwork, rear spoiler, automatic
electric windows, electric mirrors,
climate control, radio, cd player, front
fog lamps, stability control, trip
computer, alloy wheels, silver, 67000
miles, £2990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342
851122 (TRADE)

A6, SE 4dr 2.4 Man, g51nzd, remote
central locking, cloth upholstery, head
rests, power steering, air bag,
abs, colour coded body, metallic
paintwork, electric windows, air
conditioning, cd player, radio, electric
mirrors, 15" alloys, green, 130000
miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone,
01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TT, 1.8 2DR, 2002, trim: leather
engine size: 1800 transmission:
manual no. of doors: 2, green, 14000
miles, £1495, Palm Bay, Margate,
01843 298554 (TRADE)

TT, Quattro 1.8 20V T 225PS, dec
2001 w51xod, three previous
owners, power steering, remote
central locking, climate control,
electric windows, 6 speed gearbox,
full service history, single cd player,
twin & side airbags, abs brakes, esp,
engine immobiliser, car alarm, on
board computer, electric door mirrors,
front fog lamps, tinted glass, adj.
steering column, seat height adjuster,
grey leather interior, sports seats,
heated seats, split rear seats, alloy
wheels, brilliant black metallic, 45,
500 miles, £12,995, Hollis Motors,
Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 1.6i Saloon 4d 1596cc,
318hm, mot—11/04/08 good
runner, green, miles, £695.00, DCD
Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211
(TRADE)

523i, SE auto metallic light green,
year 2000, 19" R.S. alloys,
stunning car, good condition for
year a bargain at £1750 Tel: 0777
202 4258 (PRIVATE)

7 SERIES, 735i AUTO, 2002, oxford
green metallic with beige nappa
exclusive, 79000 miles, £11950,
Martin James Cars, Kent,
01754526700 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005,
light platinum with black leather,
23379 miles, £12950, Martin James
Cars, Kent, 01754526700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007,
brilliant crystal met with dark and
light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950,
Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795
426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), automatic, 5
door saloon, met green coachwork
with contrasting grey velour trim, low
mileage, service history, new mot, ew
x 4, em, pas, air bags, original hi-fi,
only 1 owner from new, low mileage
miles, £1995, Riviera Car Sales,
Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, h04kgu, remote central
locking, cloth upholstery, head
rests, power steering, air bag,
colour coded body, metallic
paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric
windows, air conditioning, cd player,
radio, aluminium silver, 36000 miles,
£4499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622
200 100 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

CHARADE, SI 5dr, immobiliser, remote
central locking, cloth upholstery, head
rests, metallic paintwork, multiple
airbags, abs, power steering, electric
front windows/mirrors, 33000 miles,
£3695, Automatically Ray Morris
(Welling), 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

COPEN, Activetop 1.3, 08/2008, red
leather interior pas remote central
locking a/cn electric windows rear
wind deflector front fog lights sports
seats, grey metallic, delivery miles
miles, £12845, Cheriton Motor House,
Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

MATERIA, 1.5 MPV 5d 1495cc, alloys
electric door mirrors radio/cd player
a/cn front fog lamps reverse parking
sensors remote central locking, steel
gr, delivery miles miles, £12,145,
Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone,
01303 275795 (TRADE)

SIRION, 1.0 SE Hatchback 5d 998cc,
58/2008, abs pas remote c/locking
radio/cd electric windows a/cn
reverse parking sensors, bright red,
delivery miles miles, £8995, Cheriton
Motor House, Folkestone, 01303
275795 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, Max 5dr, remote central
locking, remote alarm, cloth
upholstery, electric front windows,
electric mirrors, air con, cd, radio,
twin bags, abs, power steering,
silver, 63500 miles, £3995, Kings
Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020
8855 4000 (TRADE)

CR-V, i-VTEC 5dr, alarm, central
locking, immobiliser, locking wheel
nuts, privacy glass, remote central
locking, cloth upholstery, cruise
control, multi-function steering wheel,
parking sensor, power steering,
satellite navigation, abs, air bag,
brake assist, multiple airbags, cd, air
con, electric front windows, electric
mirrors, 4x4, blue, 5000 miles,
£1995, Automatically Ray Morris
(Welling), 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Dsi S, h07jwa, anti-theft
system, central locking, immobiliser,
remote alarm, cloth upholstery, rear
view mirror, metallic paintwork, colour
coded body, multiple airbags, abs,
power steering, electric windows,
electric front windows, vivid blue,
14000 miles, £8995, Automatically
Ray Morris (Welling), 0208 303 4030
(TRADE)

LEGEND, 3.5i VTEC V6 EX with ADAS
CDMS Sequential Shift, power
door unlock (crash sensor), blue
ambient footwell lighting, active front
lighting system (afs), front map lights,
multi-function driver computer, front
ventilated disc brakes, parcel shelf
speakers, passenger seatback
pocket, vehicle stability assist (vsa),
interior & perimeter alarm (cat1), low
fuel warning light, driver's foot rest,
emergency brake assist, illuminated
ignition switch, drive by wire (dsw),
tweeters, opulent blue pearl, 750
miles, £28995.0000, Barretts Honda,
Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

S2000, 2.0i VTEC Roadster, r070co,
rolling code ecu engine immobiliser,
remote keyless entry, stereo cd tuner
with rds, body colour door mirrors
tatcham category 1 alarm system,
embossed kickplates, soft top roof
with glass heated rear screen,
electric adjustable and heated door
mirrors, automatic headlight beam
digital odometer (trip), body colour
bumpers, front electric windows,
starter button, pollen filter, boot
release in locking centre console,
dual front air airbags, remote central
controls, silverstone metallic, 1650
miles, £19995, Barretts Honda,
Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

STREAM, 2.0i SE Sport, passenger
airbag, alarm, rake/reach adjustable
steering column/wheel, driver's seat
height adjustment, electric sunroof,
seven seats seating capacity, driver
airbag, remote central door locking,
centre rear seat, fold in place spare
wheel, radio/cassette, front/rear
electric windows, electric heated
seat, front air airbags, remote central
controls, silverstone metallic, 1650
miles, £19995, Barretts Honda,
Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

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height adjustment, electric sunroof,
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controls, silverstone metallic, 1650
miles, £19995, Barretts Honda,
Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S TYPE, 3.0, 2003 (03), 03 (53) jaguar
s-type v6 3.0 se auto, metallic silver
coachwork with grey leather trim,
only 42000 miles, full service history,
usual jaguar refinements to include:
power and memory seats, memory
steering wheel position, air
conditioning/climate control, electric
windows, electric & folding mirrors,
cd multiplexer with hi-fi pack,
multiple air bags, electronic park
brake, on board computer, cruise
control, traction control, tinted glass,
alloy wheels etc. only £8995,
metallic silver, £8995, Riviera Car
Sales, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

SOVEREIGN, 4.0 Saloon 4d 3980cc
auto, electric windows, electric
mirrors, remote central alarm
locking, air con, radio cassette
system, cruise control, cream interior
leather, electric seats, memory seats,
alloys, front fog lamps, colour coded
body, metallic silver/grey, miles,
£3995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury,
01227 710685 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.0 SE Saloon 4d 1988cc,
04/2004, speed box, full jaguar
service history, cd/radio, ivory leather
trim, electric windows, central
locking, power assisted steering,
cruise control, electric mirrors, air
conditioning, alloy wheels, alloy
airbags, abs, front fog lamps, alloys,
immaculate condition, metallic pacific
blue, miles, £12995, Westbrook Cars,
Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

XJ V8, 4.0 sovereign h6s, 2002,
seafrost blue met with catkin leather
interior, 71000 miles, £9950, Martin
James Cars, 01754526700 (TRADE)

XJ6, cloth, 1989, a well preserved
well serviced part of british history,
jaguars are now very collectable, and
will become even more so as more
are removed from our roads, this car
still drives as good as you would
expect. you are welcome to come and
inspect then test drive her. she has a
long mot and some road tax. this is
the 6 cylinder 3.2 litre version and
has all the extras you would expect
from a car of this status and year.
bronze g, 106000 miles, £1995,
Courtney Cars, Charing,
Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

XJ V8, 4.0 sovereign h6s, 2002,
seafrost blue met with catkin leather
interior, 71000 miles, £9950, Martin
James Cars, 01754526700 (TRADE)

LEXUS
IS, 200 SE, alarm, immobiliser,
remote central locking, alcantara
leather, half leather, electric seats,
heated seats, power steering, stability
control, abs, multiple airbags, auto
lighting, colour coded body, front fog
lamps, electric mirrors/windows,
climate control, multi-disc cd player,
electric sunroof, child locks, alloys,
red, 52000 miles, £5990, AR Cars,
Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, GT 5dr, 774461, remote central
locking, cloth upholstery, power
steering, air bag, colour coded body,
metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe,
electric windows, air conditioning, cd
player, stereo, 15" alloys, aluminium
silver, 87000 miles, £1999,
Marshams, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

323, GXi 5dr, central locking,
immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head
rests, power steering, air bag,
colour coded body, metallic
paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric
windows, air conditioning, cd
player, stereo, green, 94000 miles, £2999,
Marshams, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

5, TS2 D 2.0 110PS 5dr MPV Jan
2006 g55shy, two previous keepers,
power steering remote central
locking, air conditioning, electric
windows, 6 speed gearbox, full
service history, radio/cd player, cd
autochanger, twin side/curtain
airbags, abs brakes, engine
immobiliser, car alarm, electric door
mirrors, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe,
adj. steering column, seat height
adjuster, sports seats, seven seats,
alcantara/leather, carbon grey metallic,
15, 000 miles, £12,995, Hollis
Motors, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

6S, 2005, 6s, metallic, 19299 miles,
£5495, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley,
020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, Capella 5dr, 6481079,
remote central locking, remote alarm,
rear wash/wipe, rear headrests,
electric mirrors, electric windows,
cloth upholstery, height adjustable
seat, adjustable steering column,
power steering, air conditioning, cd
player, radio, twin air bags, abs, alloy
wheels, grey, 14500 miles, £3495,
Kings Highway Garage Ltd,
Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8 M, immobiliser, cloth
upholstery, head restraints, power
steering, colour coded body, metallic
paintwork, electric windows, locking
wheel nuts, centre armrest, twin bags,
cd player, stereo, 14" alloys,
radio, 68000 miles, £3995,
Marshams, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A-CLASS, 1.5 A150 Classic
Hatchback 3d 1496cc, 57, climate,
alarm & immobiliser, cd, 1 owner,
please view our website to see our
full stock, more a150 in stock, auto
blue with black cloth, under 12, 500
miles, £10495, WJ King Vauxhall,
Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

B-CLASS, 2.0TD B200 CDI SE
Hatchback 5d 1982cc: Autronic, 06,
alloys, parktronic, rain sensor,
climate, cruise, cd, please view our
website to see our full stock, more
b200cdi in stock, cosmos black with
grey cloth, under 33, 000 miles,
£15995, WJ King Vauxhall,
Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2005, abs body coloured
bumpers, drivers airbag, electric door
mirrors, folding rear seats front
electric windows front head restraints
height adjustable drivers seat isofix
child seat anchor points pas
passenger airbag radio/cd
multichanger rear wiper remote
central locking service indicator side
airbags steering wheel rake
adjustment, metallic silver, 35536
miles, £3995, WJ King Vauxhall,
Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

ONE, 3dr, h52 ucu, front fog lamps,
remote central locking, remote alarm,
height adjustable seat, power
steering, adjustable steering column,
electric front windows, electric
mirrors, air conditioning, cd player,
radio, twin air bags, abs, cloth
upholstery, alloy wheels, salt pack,
yellow, 44900 miles, £5995, Kings
Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020
8855 4000 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Privilege, feb 06, 5 doors,
automatic, hatchback, petrol, 13,
075 miles, metallic grey, 2 owners.
3x3 point rear seat belts, abs, air
conditioning, alloy wheels, audio
remote control, body coloured
bumpers, cloth seat trim, climate
control, cruise control, drivers
airbag, electric door mirrors, folding
rear seats, front electric windows,
front head restraints, full size spare
wheel, heated door mirrors, height
adjustable drivers seat,
immobiliser, soft child seat
anchor points, lumbar support, pas,
passenger airbag, radio/cd, rear
electric windows, rear headrests,
rear wiper, remote central locking,
service indicator, side airbags,
steering wheel rake adjustment,
computer full service renewal
history/last service 27/10/08, 2
months tax, insurance group 6, grey,
£7250, KENT, 01845 585186
(PRIVATE)

TWINGO, GT TURBO, 2007, trim: cloth
engine size: 1200 transmission:
manual no. of doors: 3, pearl black,
3000 miles, £3995, Palm Bay,
Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3 Linear TD 1.9, oct 2004
g54wcd, two previous keepers,
power steering, remote central
locking, air conditioning, electric
windows, 6 speed gearbox, full
service history, radio/cd player, twin &
side airbags, abs brakes, engine
immobiliser, car alarm, on-board
computer, tinted glass, adj. steering
column, seat height adjuster, alloy
wheels, metallic, 32, 000 miles,
£3,495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304
206710 (TRADE)

9-3 2.0 SE AUTOMATIC, 2001 (51),
01 (51) saab 9-3 2.0 se turbo
automatic, stunning metallic willow
green coachwork with grey full
leather trim, full service history, only
68000 miles, only 1 former keeper,
remote central locking, alarm, air con,
cruise control, electric windows x 4,
electric mirrors, twin air bags, alloy
wheels, original cd hi-fi, sports g/bx,
stunning condition, true luxury at an
affordable price, only £4695, willow
green metallic, £4695, Riviera Car
Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244
(TRADE)

9-5 CONVERTIBLE, 2000 (w), 0 (w)
saab 9-5 2.0 convertible, stunning
diamond black coachwork with grey
leather trim, full service history,
electric pad, remote central locking,
alarm, air con, electric windows,
electric mirrors, twin air bags, alloy
wheels, original hi-fi, stunning
condition, true luxury at an affordable
price, only £5495 many more quality
pre-owned cars for sale on:
www.rivieraautosales.co.uk diamond
black, low mileage miles, £ cheap at
£5695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone,
01303 244244 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

AURIS, Tr VWT-1 Mmt 5dr, ax57gc,
anti-theft system, central locking,
immobiliser, remote central locking,
cloth upholstery, central armrest, head
rests, height adjustable seat, rear
armrest, rear wash/wipe, metallic
paintwork, multiple airbags, power
steering, electric front windows, air
conditioning, cd player, 15" alloys,
aluminium silver, 50000 miles, £3995,
Automatically Ray Morris
(Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030
(TRADE)

AVENSIS, T3 VWT-1 5dr auto,
m53gpc, remote central locking,
cloth upholstery, head restraints,
power steering, air bag, abs, colour
coded body, metallic paintwork,
electric windows, electric mirrors, cd
player, radio, multiple airbags, air
conditioning, dual climate zones,
power folding mirrors, adjustable
steering column, multi-function
steering wheel, auto-dip rearview,
centre armrest, height adjustable
seat, folding rear seats, rear armrest,
front fog lamps, stereo, adjustable
wheel audio controls, rear wash/wipe,
15" alloys, black, 65000 miles,
£4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622
200 100 (TRADE)

AVENIS, T3 VWT-1 5dr auto,
m53gpc, remote central locking,
cloth upholstery, head restraints,
power steering, air bag, abs, colour
coded body, metallic paintwork,
electric windows, electric mirrors, cd
player, radio, multiple airbags, air
conditioning, dual climate zones,
power folding mirrors, adjustable
steering column, multi-function
steering wheel, auto-dip rearview,
centre armrest, height adjustable
seat, folding rear seats, rear armrest,
front fog lamps, stereo, adjustable
wheel audio controls, rear wash/wipe,
15" alloys, black, 65000 miles,
£4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622
200 100 (TRADE)

AVENIS, T3 VWT-1 5dr auto,
m53gpc, remote central locking,
cloth upholstery, head restraints,
power steering, air bag, abs, colour
coded body, metallic paintwork,
electric windows, electric mirrors, cd
player, radio, multiple airbags, air
conditioning, dual climate zones,
power folding mirrors, adjustable
steering column, multi-function
steering wheel, auto-dip rearview,
centre armrest, height adjustable
seat, folding rear seats, rear armrest,
front fog lamps, stereo, adjustable
wheel audio controls, rear wash/wipe,
15" alloys, black, 65000 miles,
£4999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622
200 100 (TRADE)

LANDCRUISER, 172723, alarm,
immobiliser, remote central locking,
locking wheel nuts, full leather, centre
armrest, head restraints, heated
seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar
support, folding rear seats, rear
armrest, rear headrests, adjustable
steering column, cruise control,
power steering, abs, twin air bags,
colour coded body, headlamp
washers, metallic paintwork, rear
wash/wipe, roof rails, side steps, tow
pack, electric aerial, electric mirrors,
electric windows, air conditioning,
electric sunroof, cd player, uk
specification, 16" alloys, 4x4, very
clean car, full toyota service history,
mot until oct 2009, viewing by
appointment only, burgundy/silver
metallic, 127900 miles, £2995, Kent
Motivation, Maidstone, 01622 600
456 (TRADE)

MJR, Roadster, h05 shp, front fog
lamps, cloth upholstery, remote
alarm, remote central locking, electric
mirrors, electric windows, adjustable
steering column, cd player, radio, twin
air bags, abs, power steering, alloy
wheels, black, 54200 miles, £7995,
Kings Highway Garage Ltd,
Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

RAY 4 NV, VTI 3000R ESTATE, 2001
(y), 01 (y) toyota ray 4 nv vti 3 door
estate, stunning met blue coachwork
with immaculate grey/blue cloth trim,
full service history, long mot, electric
park, remote central locking, alarm,
air con, ew, electric mirrors, twin air
bags, traction control, permanent 4
wheel drive, original hi-fi with
multiplexer, never taken off road,
stunning condition, only 1 former
keeper, only £3995, metallic blue,
76000 miles, only £3995, Riviera
Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244
(TRADE)

YARIS, T Spirit VWT-1 3dr, cp06wne,
central locking, immobiliser, remote
central locking, cloth upholstery, head
rests, height adjustable seat,
folding rear seats, power steering,
abs, multiple airbags, colour coded
body, front fog lamps, metallic
paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player,
air conditioning, electric mirrors,
electric front windows, alloy wheels,
venetian silver, 8000 miles, £7495,
Automatically Ray Morris (Welling),
Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

TVR

350i TASMIN (WEDEGE), 1989 (f), 89
(f) tvr 350i convertible, stunning dark
met black coachwork with contrasting
cream leather sports trim with blue
piping, black mohair soft top, wheel
ground up not and bolt restoration
with all photo's to prove, no expense
spared, big brake conversion,
goodrich hoses etc, original service
books, ew, em, quality cd hi-fi, alloy
wheels, only 3 former keepers,
sounds absolutely awesome!
summer bargain at £5995 many
more quality pre-owned cars for sale
on: www.rivieraautosales.co.uk
metallic blue, 70, 000 miles miles,
£5995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone,
01303 244244 (TRADE)

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Loring Hall Oakfields

We look after people with Learning Difficulties and who may have challenging behaviours. We are currently recruiting for the following

- Senior Support Workers
- Support Workers
- Waking NightStaff
- Handyman/Driver

If you have a passion for the role and the experience, call John Parker now! CRB checks necessary
Tel: 020 8302 9302 Email: loring@oakfields.net

Folkestone, Marlowe and Spiers Academies Clerk to the Governors/Project Officer

Are you a good organiser, able to bring people together and make things happen? Do you enjoy the challenge of finding out new information and compiling interesting and relevant reports?

Would you like to be at the cutting edge of educational change?

We are looking for someone who can combine the role of Clerk to the Governors for our three academies with a project officer role in supporting the development of our all age academy programme. This is the ideal job for an agile minded individual who enjoys the challenge of a varied range of responsibilities, working as part of a small Folkestone-based team.

Based in Folkestone Academy, you will be expected to travel to Canterbury and Ramsgate and be ready to adapt to a range of tasks.

- Start date: February or March 2009
- Salary £24,000 pa + benefits

For an informal discussion please contact Gabrielle Wilson on 01303 212048
Application packs can be obtained from www.folkestoneacademy.com

Closing date for applications: 9th January 2009



TRAINING ASSISTANT FOR BILINGUAL LEARNERS REQUIRED

Hours: Term-time only (38 weeks), temporary post until 31st March 2010
Salary: Kent Scheme 5 (£16,627 - £18,288 pro rata per annum)

You will work in both primary and secondary schools supporting pupils for whom English is an additional language, and working together with mainstream staff in order to raise the achievement of bilingual and ethnic minority pupils.

You should have an understanding of initiatives for supporting children and young people in the most effective and appropriate way. You will need an understanding of the Foundation Stage, National Curriculum and current educational initiatives, as well as a qualification in learning support and evidence of Continuing Professional Development.

You will be willing to travel in order to visit schools and there will be a mileage allowance payable. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau for which the employer will pay.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road,
Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date: Friday 22nd January 2009
Interviews: Week beginning 5th January 2009



achievement for all

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Your Skills Our Vision



Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Sheerness to Dungeness, Ashford to Ramsgate, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS – and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and well-being for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

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STAFF BENEFITS PACKAGE

- Final salary pension scheme
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SELECTION OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMIN AND CLERICAL / DOMESTIC SERVICES

Administrative Assistant

Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 25
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Ref: 767-EIC711
Closing date: 26/12/08

Lifelong Learning Advisor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Ashford
Ref: 767-ECC695
Closing date: 02/01/09

Team Secretary

Salary: £14,834 - £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 20
Location: Dover
Ref: 767-ECC696
Closing date: 07/01/09

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REGISTERED

Tissue Viability Nurse X 2

Salary: £37,106 - £44,527 pa
Band: 8a
Hours: 37.5
Location: Folkestone
Ref: 767-EIC698
Closing date: 29/12/08

Stroke Specialist Nurse X 2

Salary: £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable
Ref: 767-EIC699
Closing date: 29/12/08

Community Children's Nurse

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Children's Assessment Centre, Kent & Canterbury
Hospital
Ref: 767-ECC655
Closing date: 31/12/08

Community Children's Nurse - Clinical Deputy

Salary: £37,106 to £44,527 pa
Band: 8a
Hours: 37.5
Location: Children's Assessment Centre, Kent & Canterbury
Hospital
Ref: 767-ECC656
Closing date: 31/12/08

Staff Nurse

Salary: £20,225 - £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable & Tankerton Hospital
Ref: 767-EIC710
Closing date: 04/01/09

Public Health Screening Nurse x 2

Salary: £24,103 - £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 22.5
Location: Dover
Ref: 767-ECC688
Closing date: 05/01/09

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Health Promotion Practitioner

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitfield Court, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC690
Closing date: 31/12/08

Health Promotion Practitioner

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitfield Court, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC691
Closing date: 31/12/08

Occupational Therapist

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Cairn Ryan, Dover
Ref: 767-ASH245
Closing date: 05/01/09

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Herne Bay
Ref: 767-ECC721
Closing date: 02/01/09

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Swale, Kent
Ref: 767-ECC713
Closing date: 02/01/09

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable Health Centre
Ref: 767-ECC722
Closing date: 02/01/09

Health Visitor

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 30
Location: Ramsgate, Kent
Ref: 767-ECC720
Closing date: 02/01/09

Healthcare Assistant

Salary: £14,834 - £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 18
Location: Various Sites across East Kent
Ref: 767-EIC707
Closing date: 02/01/09

Healthcare Assistant

Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable & Tankerton Hospital
Ref: 767-EIC709
Closing date: 04/01/09

4 x Service Managers Psychological Therapies in Primary Care

£31,551 - £40,440 PRO-RATA

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There is an opportunity to take on clinical work in addition to your management responsibilities, this could be for one or two days a week making the role either four days a week or full time.

You will need experience of delivering or managing brief psychological therapies and a relevant qualification at diploma or degree level. A strong commitment to evidence based practice is vital and experience of quality assurance systems relevant to primary care/therapy (e.g. CORE) would be an advantage. You will need to be self-motivated, innovative, able to inspire your team and possess empathy balanced with the ability to achieve goals.

For an informal discussion, please contact Sam Downie, Assistant Director at sdownie@kca.org.uk

An application form and job description can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, you can write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference: 538

Closing date: 5pm, 2 January 2009.

Interview date: 14 January 2009.

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Closing date: 29 Dec 2008 Interviews: expected to be held in Jan 2009



Colyer Road
Northfleet, Gravesend
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Head: John Hassett MA

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We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.

An application form can be obtained from by telephone 01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email taylor@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV. Do check our web site: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date is Wednesday 31st December 2008



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Recognised Dyslexia/SpLD qualification

Applications, with full CV's, a letter of introduction and details of two referees should be sent to:

The Headmaster, Dover College, Effingham Crescent,
Dover, Kent. CT17 9RH

Closing Date for Applications 9th January 2009

Tel: 01304 205969 ext. 201

Email: headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk or
hm.pa@dovercollege.org.uk www.dovercollege.org.uk

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The closing date for the above posts is Monday 12th January 2009 at 12 noon.



www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



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08/12

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06/110

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37 hrs per week, salary starting £27,209 per annum

08/61

Lecturer Media in Interactive Media

18.5 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

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Fixed term post ending 31 August 2010

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L24

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- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
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Effective from June 2008

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Dated: 16 December 2008
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With Business Editor
TONY PATEY

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Online learning to cut out packaging waste

WITH cost-savings an ongoing priority for businesses during the tough economic climate, sustainable business experts Envirowise are advising companies in the South East to think 'out of the box' when it comes to identifying ways they can cut out waste in 2009.

With an estimated 80 per cent of the cost of a product and its packaging set at the design stage, the adoption of leaner, more sustainable, packaging design, without any loss in performance, can have a positive knock-on effect on costs and profitability.

To help companies understand where improvements can be made, and to help them influence supply chains, Envirowise is running a free webinar on eco-design for products and packaging on Wednesday, February 25.

To sign up or find out more, see www.envirowise.gov.uk/webinar.

Funding to help with management training

GOOD Christmas news for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who have between five and 249 employees: they now have the opportunity to claim up to £2,000 of funding to spend on leadership training for their senior management team.

With up to £1,000 available through the Government's Train To Gain scheme, plus another £1,000 of matched funding by training company Enterprise Leaders Worldwide, executives of qualifying SMEs can be taught entrepreneurial leadership by past and present stars of TV's Dragons' Den, Simon Woodroffe and Duncan Bannatyne. Details are available at www.traintogain1k.co.uk.

Demand is on the up

APPROACHING the first anniversary of the launch of its Thames Gateway office at Chatham Historic Dockyard, regional law firm Furley Page is bucking the business trend and celebrating a period of growth.

The team is led by commercial law partner Susan Jennings, who said the team had found an increasing demand for private client services – from people moving home to needing advice on wills, tax-planning and family law issues.



SCALED DOWN: Recession fears were put aside by many businesses, with three in five firms still holding office parties, even if they were slightly smaller than previous years

We're not too gloomy to hold office parties

■ BY TONY PATEY

GLOOM in the economy did not stop businesses staging celebrations in the run-up to Christmas this year – but some of the trimmings were carved out of the traditional office get-togethers.

A survey published by the Chartered Management Institute revealed three out of every five firms held an office party – only slightly down on the two out of three in 2007.

Bosses say the knees-ups were designed to boost staff morale despite the miserable predictions for the year ahead.

The report suggests that some employers, however, were adopting a more socially aware approach – preferring to spend their money on good causes.

But they were watching the pennies. Many employers believed extravagant parties were unnecessary. Fifty per cent, for example, sug-

gested hosting expensive parties could have a negative impact on their reputation.

For many the festivities were funded out of the staff's own pocket. A quarter of employers in the region made no financial contribution to office parties this year, although a quarter agreed to pay up to £40 per person.

Key findings included:

- Budget bashes: only a minority in Kent – 12 per cent – included employees' partners in this year's celebrations and just two per cent invited clients. Half were concerned expensive parties might send out the wrong message in the current climate.
- Social conscience: 37 per cent in the region bought only Christmas cards that support charities and 22 per cent went for eCards – demonstrating a concern for the environment. And half argued Christmas was an appropri-

ate time to engage in corporate social responsibility – going out into the community to help.

• 'Tis the season of thanks: 37 per cent of line managers bought gifts for their team members and 16 per cent gave time off at Christmas without taking out of holiday leave.

Jo Causon, director of marketing and corporate affairs at the institute, said: "It should come as no surprise that employers controlled Christmas budgets with tighter purse-strings this year."

"However, it is encouraging to see responsible budget management is going hand-in-hand with an effort to thank staff for their efforts during the year and a determination to recognise hard work."

Away from work, the survey also asked respondents to name the 'must-hear' festive music. Among the favourites this year were perennial classic Silent Night, Fairy Tale Of New York by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, and Bing Crosby's White Christmas.

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Villa cup clash to pack out Priestfield

Picture: GOR MURDO



FULL HOUSE: Tickets for Gillingham's FA Cup third-round clash against Aston Villa have sold out

THE last few tickets for Gillingham's FA Cup tie with Aston Villa were sold this week with Priestfield set for its first sell-out in more than five years.

Despite ticket prices being increased by 15 per cent on a normal home game, the prospect of watching England stars Gareth Barry, Ashley Young and Gabriel Agbonlahor has seen Gills fans turn out in force.

Supporters with season tickets or ticket stubs from games against Stockport and Chesterfield, queued for more than an hour at times last week to get their hands on the prized tickets for the third-round tie on January 4.

If Villa sell out their 1,500 allocation it will be the first time Priestfield

FOOTBALL

will be completely sold out since September 2003, when 11,400 crammed in to watch Gills beat West Ham 2-0 in Division One.

Regardless of the result, Gills are set to bank at least £300,000 from the game, which will be shown live on television. The figure could rise substantially if they manage to force a replay at Villa Park, where they would take home 45 per cent of the gate.

The club have already seen a surge in interest, with ticket sales for last Saturday's game against Brentford

and the visit of Wycombe Wanderers on Sunday higher than expected.

Gills boss Mark Stimson is aware his players could be distracted ahead of games against Dagenham & Redbridge on Boxing Day and Wycombe on Sunday, but plans to use Villa as an incentive.

He said: "We have got to stay focused because everyone's human and we know what's coming. We can't get away from that but I'll be stressing to the players that won't happen if you don't perform correctly because no one's shirt is guaranteed."

Log on to www.kentnews.co.uk for live match updates from Gills' next three games and all the build-up to the big FA Cup clash.

Kent to take on Aussies in packed fixture list

KENT will take on the visiting Australians in a two-day game at Canterbury ahead of the fifth and final Test of the 2009 Ashes series.

Next season's fixtures were announced last week, with Rob Key's side beginning the LV County Championship against Northamptonshire at Canterbury on April 21.

Beckenham will host two Twenty20 games against Middlesex Crusaders and Sussex Sharks. Essex are the opponents for the Tunbridge Wells Festival in June, while Middlesex visit for Canterbury week from August 5.

Key's side end the County Championship campaign at St Lawrence against Leicestershire. Kent will take on Ricky Ponting's Australians in a two-day game on August 15.

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See our London Golf Club course guide with expert Alasdair Robertson

Bank Holiday bonanza at Lydden race track

LYDDEN Hill will host the European Rallycross Championship over the Bank holiday weekend of April 12-13.

It will be the first time the circuit has hosted the event since 1996 and manager Amy Doran is expecting a record crowd of 30,000 to flock to the Dover circuit.

In order to meet the FIA regulations for the event, Lydden has had to extend the track at a cost in the region of £200,000.

The newly-built circuit will be tested ahead of the European Championships on January 3 by hosting a round of the Winter Rallycross Series.

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RETURN: Crowds flocked to the London Club to watch the likes of Colin Montgomerie (on the tee) and Padraig Harrington (inset) battle it out for the European Open in May

Coup for club as it bags European Open return

GOLF

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

THE London Golf Club has set its sights on attracting more than 100,000 spectators to the European Open next year after the tournament was again awarded to the Kent course.

The four-day Open in July was the first time the club, near Ash, had hosted an event on the European Tour. Despite being hit by bad weather on the final day, about 61,000 people attended the tournament, which featured a top class field including Sergio Garcia, Padraig Harrington and Ian Poulter.

Heath Harvey, general manager at the London Club, was delighted with the maiden tournament but is hoping for more in 2009.

"On the whole, most things exceeded our expectations," he said. "We are just hellbent on growing the attendance to in excess of 100,000.

There's no point in putting the tournament on unless you can make it as big as possible. Our ambition is to make this one of the biggest events in Kent next year."

The European Tour began talks about bringing the tournament back to the club this summer, but the announcement was delayed by problems finding a sponsor. A sponsor is due to be announced soon, which allowed the Tour to make its decision to return to Kent next May.

Despite the uncertainty, the club was confident of retaining the tournament and within weeks of this year's event had begun a £100,000 groundworks programme. Several new tees have been installed to make the

course tougher, while minor improvements will be made throughout the spring.

Ashford's Benn Barham, Kent's only European Tour professional, knows the club well and believes it compares well to the other courses featured in the calendar.

He said: "The venue is fantastic, both the club and the course are built for a major tournament, it's always a joy to go there."

The club also hopes to stage a repeat of this year's hugely successful 'Free Ticket Thursday' promotion. About 14,000 people signed up for up to two tickets each with the scheme, which gave 24,000 golf fans the chance to see world class players for free on the first day of the tournament.

Harvey said: "It's down to the European Tour but I would hope it comes back because it's a good initiative. It was terrific to see so many people of all ages enjoying the golf for free on the first day."

Picture: ADY KERRY

Town boss praise for players after pay cut

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Whitstable Town 5

Pulman 15, 89, Quinn pen 27, Cory 55, 60

Chipstead 1

Fleming 80

WHITSTABLE Town manager Marc Seager heaped praise on his players after they thrashed Chipstead at the end of a week when they were all forced to take a pay cut.

In the light of toughening economic conditions, the Oystermen have made what the Belmont boss described as "substantial" reductions across the board.

Despite the problems off the field, Town rose to the occasion in Saturday's crucial basement clash with Chipstead, returning their best result in their two seasons in the Ryman South.

Seager said: "The players have been absolutely fantastic. There was a bit of doom and gloom around the place last week because of the budget cuts, but they have all said they are going to stay."

"The club should be proud of this squad; they were told what was going to happen at the beginning of the week but have trained hard, put in a great performance and got a great result."

Whitstable starting XI



Subs used: Neal (Cory 60), Wisker (Quinn 65), Munday (Thomas 80)

The Whitstable manager was at pains to stress the club were not in financial difficulties, merely the cuts were being made now to prevent going into debt in the future.

There was just enough in the playing budget to bring back striker Jon Neal from Kingstorian, a move which will significantly increase competition for places up front.

Whether they were spurred on by Neal's presence or not, Ian Pulman and Dave Cory appeared in a hurry to remind Seager of what they could offer, plundering two goals apiece against Chipstead.

Pulman opened the scoring early on with a classy lob and Liam Quinn doubled the advantage from the penalty spot before half-time. Cory scored twice in five minutes to make the game safe, before Pulman restored the four-goal advantage late on following a Chipstead consolation.

Seager said: "I'm not going to get carried away but coming into Christmas I couldn't have asked for a better result."

The victory sent Whitstable above Chipstead into 18th position, four points above the relegation zone. They face two of



DELIGHT: Whitstable manager Marc Seager hugs Dave Cory, who scored twice in their handsome win

the division's most in-form sides either side of New Year, visiting Sittingbourne on Saturday before hosting Ashford Town a week later.

FOOTBALL



FLAT: Dave Read (left) scored but City disappointed overall

City frustrated by lowly Monarchs

Staplehurst & Monarchs 1 Canterbury City 1

THERE were no excuses from Canterbury City manager Dave Fairclough or his players after dropping two points against a Staplehurst side one place above the relegation zone.

Looking to go into the Christmas break on a high, leaders City produced a poor display. The home side coped well defensively and on a rare attack late on, pinched a goal which cancelled out Dave Read's opener.

Fairclough said: "Sometimes at this time in the season you need a reminder that being top of the league and told you are the favourites for promotion is all very well but nothing is a foregone conclusion. Perhaps we needed somebody to do that to us."

Staplehurst were stubborn but if City had been at their best they would have strolled to victory.

The hosts had won just twice in the league all season going into the game but might have taken the lead as they created two good chances in the first five minutes.

City's 4-3-3 formation gave the home side the opportunity to frustrate them in midfield, while up front the City strikers were caught off-side far too often.

Not succeeding with their possession game, they seemed to be in two minds as to whether to persevere with it or send long balls up to strikers Royston Gough, Read and Dan Bonneywell. Either way, Staplehurst managed to mop up the pressure.

City's goal, after 15 minutes, had an element of good fortune. Michael Seagar sent a long punt towards the goalmouth, where Read got in front of Staplehurst goalkeeper Rob Underdown, diverting the ball over his head and into the net. Despite the error, Underdown more than made up for the error with a string of fine saves.

City's inability to find a second goal was punished nine minutes from time when Peter West forced the ball over the line in a packed penalty area.

The draw saw their lead at the top of the County League Division One East trimmed to three points. Their next competitive game is on January 3 at home to Guru Nanak.

In-form Melford guides injury-hit Canterbury to win

RUGBY

MIKE Melford scored two tries to help Canterbury RFC record a long-overdue win against Barking on Saturday.

The 29-16 win was only the City club's second success in eight league games and they also secured a bonus point when Ben Thomas crashed over for their fourth try late on.

Canterbury have struggled with injuries in recent weeks and they were again forced into a reshuffle with fly-half Kieron Lewitt ruled out with flu. Coach Danny Vaughan, who was visiting family in Australia, also missed the game.

Barking scored an early penalty to move ahead, but the rest of the first half belonged to the visitors.

They ran in three tries to go in at the break 24-3 ahead.

Melford continued his prolific season to score twice and move up to second in the division's leading try scorers. Captain Chris Hinkins scored the other try, with Gert De Kock kicking three conversions and a penalty.

Barking responded well after the interval and closed the gap to eight points with a penalty and converted try.

The game might have gone either way, but Canterbury defended well and Thomas' late try sealed victory.

Canterbury visit second-placed Ealing in their next game, on Saturday, January 3.



DOUBLE: Mike Melford

Bay close in on leaders after sealing ninth win on the trot

FOOTBALL

Norton Sports 0 Herne Bay 1

LUKE Harvey's low drive saw Herne Bay gaterash the Kent League's top three with their ninth successive victory in all competitions.

It was harsh on Norton Sports, who produced a tireless display but were ultimately punished for a lack of cutting edge up front.

The reigning County League champions were only admitted to the division after agreeing a groundshare with Bay at Winch's Field. The arrangement looks a good decision for Barry Morgan's side, who have now beaten their tenants four times this season without conceding a single goal.

A succession of postponements meant Saturday's fixture was the first competitive action Norton had seen in five weeks. Despite their lack of match practice they showed few problems and pressed Bay all over the pitch.

Darren Marsden, one of Bay's shrewd summer signings, was again at the heart of everything good going forward. The former Lordswood midfielder was desperately unlucky not to add to his seven goals this season as he twice saw efforts cleared off the line.

The home side had their goalkeeper to thank for keeping them on level terms at the break, somehow tipping Steve Hansen's header from two yards over the crossbar.

Chances came and went after the break as Bay began to lose hope of a breakthrough, but with 13 minutes remaining Harvey came up with the all-important strike. The



WINNER: Luke Harvey scored the only goal of the game

forward collected the rebound from a Marsden shot, steadied himself and fired low from the edge of the penalty area.

The narrow victory was their ninth in a row, six of which have come in league games. The sequence has seen them climb from mid-table to third, seven points behind leaders Hythe Town.

This Saturday they have the chance to take the run into double figures when they host Faversham Town.

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